

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, April 14, 2006

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**Sports** Albany softball victory over Salesian is long overdue [C1]

**Arts & Leisure** Lawrence Hall looks into insects' role in crime scenes [C12]

## Principal's passion lands him close to home

Former folk singer Ron Rosenbaum switched to promoting harmony among students in his adopted hometown.

*Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series of interviews with principals of local schools.*

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, Ron Rosenbaum was principal at Oakland Technical High School when he decided to take a pay cut and work at Albany High School.

"One of the attractions is that live here, my kids went to school here," said Rosenbaum, an Albany resident for 30 years. "I know the community."

The community has also gotten to know Rosenbaum as over-seeing changes at Albany High

School — ranging from its schedule of classes to a new mental health curriculum.

Thirty years ago, teaching young students was a change for Rosenbaum, then a folk singer with a chemistry degree. He signed up to be a substitute teacher after moving to the Bay Area from his native Brooklyn.

That led to 19 years working full-time in tough East Oakland schools, where he discovered a fondness and talent for counseling teenagers.

Rosenbaum eventually moved into an assistant principal position at Berkeley High. He was also principal of Alhambra High School in Martinez for five years, and Oakland Tech High School for two years before coming to Albany in 2003.

In Albany, teen drinking and mental health have emerged as a focus in the high-performing school district. Rosenbaum said

a new mental health curriculum and testing for inebriation at dances are helping address the issue.

**Q:** The most talked-about issue this year was teen drinking and the Berkeley party that led to several stabbings and the death of an El Cerrito man who had attended Albany schools. Where does Albany High School go from here?

**A:** We have had several forums and a PTA meeting, and a forum put on by the Cougar (student) newspaper. We've been dealing with ongoing breathalyzer issues, to have dances safer and student events safer. If you look at (the April 5) school board minutes, we finally got a new health curriculum onto the first reading, and it should be approved on Monday.

See ROSENBAUM, Page A11



**ALBANY HIGH PRINCIPAL** Ron Rosenbaum took a pay cut three years ago to become principal of his hometown high school. Teen drinking and mental health have emerged as major issues of concern at the school.

### PROFILE

- NAME: Ron Rosenbaum
- TITLE: Albany High principal
- EDUCATION: Administrative credential and master's of education from Cal State Hayward, 1994; master's of science in school and community counseling from Cal State Hayward, 1980; master's in chemistry from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, 1970; bachelor's in chemistry from Brooklyn College, 1967
- RESIDENCE: Albany
- CAREER: Principal at Oakland Technical High School, 2001-2003; principal at Alhambra High School in Martinez from 1996 to 2001; assistant principal at Berkeley High School, 1994-1996; head counselor at Berkeley High School, 1991-1994; counselor at Brewer Edna Middle School in Oakland from 1980-1990; taught math, biology and physical science in Oakland schools from 1971 to 1980



**CITY OF EL CERRITO** Economic Development Program Specialist Dwayne Dalman, left, El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce President Tracy Giles, middle, and El Cerrito Mayor Janet Abelson meet with Nancy McCarthy, vice president of the El Cerrito branch of the Mechanics Bank, on Monday. The city and chamber are teaming on a business-visit program.

## City looks to enhance business climate

City and Chamber of Commerce officials reach out to community stakeholders, listen to and address their concerns

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

Nancy McCarthy, the vice president of the El Cerrito branch of Mechanics Bank, saw first-hand this week what the city is going to reach out to businesses.

McCarthy met with Mayor Janet Abelson along with Tracy Giles, the president of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce board, and city redevelopment staffer Dwayne Dalman. The meeting was part of a visitation program the city has launched with the chamber to listen to and address the concerns of local businesses.

For McCarthy, the visit was an example of El Cerrito's growing reputation as a business-friendly city.

"That hadn't always been the case," said McCarthy, who has been with the El Cerrito branch for more than two years and has personally helped small businesses in the city. "And we're attracting solid, long-standing successful businesses, as opposed to mom-and-pop shops that come and go within a year."



**DWAYNE DALMAN**, who worked for five years helping the city of Concord with redevelopment, is now helping El Cerrito to implement its marketing plan.

The visitation program is just one element of the city's effort to further improve El Cerrito's business climate.

"What we're demonstrating to our business in our community is that in fact we are a team," Abelson said. "And we are working together and want to know what it is business owners in the city need and want, and what we can do to enhance their environment."

That effort also includes a commitment from the city's re-

### IF YOU GO:

- WHAT: A Taste of El Cerrito
- WHEN: 5 to 9 p.m., Sunday, May 7
- WHERE: Community center, 7007 Moeser Lane \*
- INFORMATION: The taste is still accepting vendors for the event as well as auction items. Call 510-233-7040.

conomic development board, two City Council members and Richmond representatives.

"I feel like they are being proactive, they are creating plans," Giles of the Chamber of Commerce said. "And they are really going out to businesses to hear what they have to say."

"They're not relying on a professional organization to provide information for them. Their feet are on the street."

Over the past three weeks, Giles, Dalman and Abelson have met with several business owners and representatives, including those at Peet's Coffee and Tea, Barnes and Noble and Wells Fargo.

The visits are also part of an effort by the city and chamber to collaborate on addressing business concerns and promotion.

See BUSINESS, Page A8

## Express bus route preserves service

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

The route served by Line 43 will see no cuts in service when AC Transit begins implementing a new rapid bus line through Oakland and Berkeley this summer.

That's according to a plan that will go before the AC Transit board at 2 p.m. Wednesday, agency general counsel Ken Scheidig said.

A new Line 8 will replace segments of Line 43 as well as Line 15. That's satisfying Berkeley and Albany leaders who protested a reduction of the number of buses on the 43 line from four to three an hour.

See BUS, Page A10

## School board decides to stick with exit exam

By Shirley Dang

STAFF WRITER

After warnings from state education officials and lawyers, the West Contra Costa school board voted Monday against giving diplomas to students who fail to pass the California high school exit exam.

State law demands student pass the English and math test to graduate from high school starting this year.

Board member Dave Brown

See EXAM, Page A10



## Day at the races

**CATRINA AND DAIRWIN JOHNSON** get their racing cards from volunteer Teresa Brooks during El Cerrito High School's "Day at the Races" fund-raiser for the senior class at Golden Gate Fields on Sunday. Some 111 attendees paid \$35 each for admission to the event, including preferred valet parking and more. The El Cerrito Grad Night will be held at Golden Gate Fields this year because the high school is currently under construction and has no gym.

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### Martin Snapp

- Martin is taking the week off, so we present one of his past favorites. Page A3

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE

## NEWS BRIEFS

## El Cerrito

## Tally of landscape ballots to begin

The results of the El Cerrito lighting and landscaping election may be known by late next week, Karen Pinkos, the assistant to the city manager, said.

"Once we have a result, we would certify the election at the next City Council meeting on May 1," Pinkos said.

An independent engineering firm will count the ballots beginning Tuesday at a conference room at City Hall at San Pablo and Manilla avenues during business hours. The counting, which may take up to three days, will be open to the public.

The council will hold a public hearing on the election on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the community center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Property owners have until the end of the public hearing to turn in their ballots.

The city is asking property owners to increase lighting and landscaping fees to keep up with inflation. The city implemented the fees in 1988.

About a third of approximately 9,000 ballots were returned as of Tuesday, April 11.

For more information, call Pinkos at 510-215-4302 or e-mail [kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:kpinkos@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

— Alan Lopez

## Residents invited to meet with supervisor

Residents are invited to ask questions and discuss issues with Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 22 at Maggie's cafe, 11740 San Pablo Ave. at the Del Norte Place apartment complex in El Cerrito.

Free coffee will be provided. Residents are invited to buy their own breakfasts, but it's not required.

The breakfasts with Gioia are held monthly at restaurants and cafes throughout West Contra Costa County. Call 510-374-3231 or go online at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/dis1/)

— Alan Lopez

## City considers round-about

The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency is considering installing a round-about for vehicles at Colusa and Fairmount avenues as part of a package of improvements in that business district.

"We think traffic can actually move quite well with a round-about," Public Works Director Jerry Bradshaw said. "But we're cramped on space, and we need to acquire parcels of land, primarily from the (Sunset View) cemetery."

The agency is planning to spend \$700,000 on the traffic change as well as new street trees and light poles on Fairmount Avenue and a crosswalk raised about four inches on Fairmount at Pomona avenues. The agency is also looking at realigning traffic lanes next to Harding Elementary School.

The design for the Fairmount Avenue project, which would extend from Colusa to as far west as the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, may begin by the summer, with construction possible by the winter, Bradshaw said.

Call Bradshaw at 510-215-4382 for more information.

## Board hires extra officers for school

The West Contra Costa school board has hired extra law enforcement officers to work on high school campuses for the remainder of the school year.

The city of El Cerrito will provide an additional officer to patrol El Cerrito High School and Portola Middle School at a rate of slightly more than \$8,000 a month.

The district also agreed to hire three Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office deputies. They will work primarily at De Anza, Kennedy and Richmond high schools but could be deployed throughout the district.

According to a draft agreement, the district will pay the Sheriff's Office close to \$39,000 per deputy for three months, or \$11,700 total.

The school board approved the contracts 4-0 last week. Board member Dave Brown was absent at the time of the vote.

— Shirly Dang

## Albany

## Council to consider closing streets

The Albany City Council will consider Monday a recommendation to close the four streets leading to and from El Cerrito Plaza.

The closure would require an amendment to the city's general plan. That could take six to nine months, community development director Ann Chaney said.

The Albany traffic and safety commission has recommended that the city close Talbot, Cornell, Kains and Evelyn avenues. The closure idea was a response to increased traffic on the south side of El Cerrito Plaza as well as a condominium complex that El Cerrito approved in that area.

In 19 years, the street closures would result in "excessive long delays and vehicle queuing" at certain times at three intersections on San Pablo Avenue, according to a street closure study.

Council meetings are held at 8 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 510-528-5760.

— Alan Lopez

## Supervisors update pot club rules

By Chris Metinko and Rebecca Rosen Lum

STAFF WRITERS

Contra Costa County and Alameda County supervisors on Tuesday took divergent steps down a previously charted — and largely parallel — path toward the local future of medical marijuana.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors agreed to place an urgency moratorium on any new medical marijuana dispensaries in the county's unincorporated areas. That action comes after County Supervisor Gayle Ulkema, the sponsor of the moratorium, heard dispensaries might soon open in Pacheco, Rodeo and an unspecified East County location.

On the other hand, Alameda County supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved a contract for an outside company to provide identification cards to that county's medical marijuana users.

Just last week, Alameda County supervisors agreed to a map that breaks down the county's unincorporated land into

three areas, with no more than one dispensary allowed to operate in each.

The geographical mapping goes along with a 2005 decision by Alameda County supervisors to limit the number of clinics in unincorporated areas to three, and to set up a permit application process.

Neither county's decision affects dispensaries within incorporated cities.

The interim Contra Costa ban gives the county 45 days to study traffic congestion, noise and other secondary effects of so-called "pot clubs." The ban could be renewed for another 10 months, and then another year beyond that.

Until now, zoning for these dispensaries has been lumped in with retail establishments. "This is a relatively new land use," said Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia of Richmond. "It's new ground."

The moratorium would not restrict either of the two dispensaries in El Sobrante and Pacheco, already operating legally in Contra Costa's unincorporated areas.

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## BART stations postpone new parking fees

By Mike Adamick

STAFF WRITER

BART has delayed charging new parking fees at several East Bay stations, giving commuters a brief reprieve following a month of train delays and evacuations.

Originally set to begin charging \$1 to park at the Orinda station this past Monday, BART pushed back the date to April 24 so the transit system can work out administrative kinks.

"We're tying up loose ends," said spokesman Linton Johnson.

"We want it to roll out as smooth as possible."

At the Lafayette station, a \$1 charge was set to take effect April 24, but has been delayed until May 8, Johnson said.

Fees at Walnut Creek and the Dublin-Pleasanton station will follow in May and June, while

"We're tying up loose ends. We want it to roll out as smooth as possible."

— Linton Johnson

Berkeley stations will begin charging in June and July.

The parking charges were approved last summer as BART sought to bring down a projected four-year deficit of \$100 million.

A \$1 parking fee at nine stations — and a \$5 fee at the popular West Oakland station — was seen as part of the deficit solution, as well as a fare surcharge and lower raises for BART workers.

Still, the idea of paying for what has always been free has

riled commuters — especially at stations where the amount of nonreserved parking spaces has shrunk.

BART commuter Cliff Watts parks at the Orinda station every day, and says that because the number of nonreserved spaces — for \$1 — have given way to reserved spaces, commuters will be forced to shell out \$4 each day to ensure they have a spot.

That comes out to an extra \$1,000 a year to use BART every day.

"It's like they're trying to slip something through," Watts said.

Johnson said the parking charges, and the new single-day reserved parking program that lets commuters book a parking spot before they arrive at the station, were approved last summer following at least two public hearings. Notices were also given

at stations at the time.

"This was all laid out public," he said.

Commuter Bill Herter more reserved spaces at Pleasant Hill station will have the same effect, forcing commuters to pay more or risk not having a space. Parking in the free lot is often not an option, because it fills up so quickly.

"It's very inconvenient said.

BART has already been implementing its parking plan at several stations. The Ridge, Lake Merritt, Mac and West Oakland stations began fees last year.

Mike Adamick covers transportation. Reach him at 925-945-4745 or [madamick@ctimes.com](mailto:madamick@ctimes.com).

## EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

## Monday, March 24

■ SHOPLIFTING ARREST — Police arrested a 23-year-old Richmond man on suspicion of stealing shoes at Copeland's El Cerrito Plaza shortly after 2:45 p.m. Police caught up with the man at San Pablo and Eureka avenues.

■ FORGED CHECK — Shortly after 12:40 p.m., police arrested a 46-year-old Oakland man on suspicion of attempting to pass a forged check at Bank of the West on the 11100 block of San Pablo Ave. Police say the man was given the check after selling someone fake marijuana.

## Tuesday, March 28

■ AUTO THEFT ARREST — Shortly after 9 p.m., police arrested a 25-year-old Oakland man on suspicion of possessing a stolen car after he was stopped for driving erratically at El Cerrito Plaza. Police say the man, who initially gave a false name, was driving a car stolen from San Anselmo.

## ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

## Monday, April 3

■ MITSUBISHI MISSING — A resident on the 1000 block of Kains Avenue reported that his red 2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse had been stolen. A check found that it had been impounded.

■ VANDALISM — During the night, someone vandalized a black 1993 Toyota 4-Runner on the 800 block of Hillside Avenue by smashing a rear window.

## Tuesday, April 4

■ DUI — At about 1:15 a.m., officers stopped a gray 2000 Dodge on San Pablo Avenue near Carlson Avenue for erratic driving. They arrested the driver, a 41-year-old Folsom woman, for DUI and driving with a suspended license.

■ FORD STOLEN — During the night, someone stole a white 1999 Ford van parked on the 900 block of Taylor Street. There were no witnesses.

■ SCOOTER STOLEN — An Albany woman reported that around 4:30 p.m. someone stole her 350 Scooter parked at Cornell School. There were no witnesses.

the 700 block of Hillside Avenue reported that someone had gone through her unlocked car while it was in the carport.

## Thursday, April 6

■ PRELUDE STOLEN — A 1995 Honda Prelude was taken from the 1000 block of Liberty Street sometime between 9 p.m. on April 6 and 9 a.m. the next day.

## Friday, April 7

■ DUI — At about 2:30 a.m., officers stopped a green 1993 Mazda on San Pablo Avenue near Cedar Street for expired registration. They arrested the driver, a 41-year-old Folsom woman, for DUI and driving with a suspended license.

■ FORD STOLEN — During the night, someone stole a white 1999 Ford van parked on the 900 block of Key Route Boulevard and stole a purse from inside.

■ DISORDERLY CONDUCT — At about 3:30 p.m. officers arrested a 55-year-old transient man for being drunk in public when he was found passed out in front of a business on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue.

## Saturday, April 8

■ TRIPLE ARREST — At about 1:30 a.m. officers responded to the 900 block of Kains Avenue on reports of a group of men who appeared to be checking car doors and grouping around a red truck with the door open. They were seen walking north on Kains Avenue. Officers arrested three men: a 19-year-old San Pablo man, for disorderly conduct and vehicle tampering, and an 18-year-old Richmond man and a 23-year-old San Pablo man for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

■ STOLEN CORD — During the night someone stole an extension cord from a business on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue and hotwired it to a pole. It was possibly someone from the transient camp nearby.

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — At about 3:30 p.m. someone broke into a tan 2005 Toyota Prius parked on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard and stole a purse from inside.

■ DISORDERLY CONDUCT — At about 3:30 p.m. officers arrested a 55-year-old transient man for being drunk in public when he was found passed out in front of a business on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue.

## ■ AUTO BURGLARY — A window was broken and a purse was taken from a Mercedes Sports utility vehicle on Barrett at Tassajara avenues at 8:35 a.m. A 3-year-old child was inside the vehicle while it was burglarized, police said.

## ■ AUTO BURGLARY — Property was taken from a 1998 Toyota pickup truck on the 2200 block of Mono Avenue sometime between 3 p.m. on April 6 and 1:30 p.m. the next day.

## ■ ACURA RECOVERED — A stolen 1991 Acura Integra was recovered on the 7100 block of Cutting Boulevard.

The vehicle had been stolen from the 7500 block of Terrace Drive sometime between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

## ■ COROLLA STOLEN — A Toyota Corolla wagon was taken from the 1800 block of Ganges Street sometime between 10 p.m. on April 9 and the next day. The vehicle was last found on Manor Circle at Elm Street.

## ■ HONDA RECOVERED — A stolen 1996 Honda Accord was recovered on the 8800 block of Bonnie Drive. The vehicle had been reported stolen in Richmond the previous day.

of Stannage Avenue and stole from inside.

■ OUTSTANDING WARRANT — Officers arrested a 37-year-old Richmond man on the 500 block of Land Avenue for an outstanding Contra Costa County warrant for injury hit and run and weapons possession in the amount of \$25,000.

■ DUI — At about 7:30 p.m., a man and a woman were stopped at a restaurant on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue for DUI, and the man was arrested, hitting the bartender and causing a disturbance. They were seen leaving in a red 2001 Chrysler. Officers located the car on the 1100 block of Ramona Avenue and arrested the driver, a 40-year-old Belmont man, for DUI.

## Weekly summary

Officers responded to 161 civil and stopped 109 vehicles or persons, issuing 29 citations and 80 warnings. Firefighters/policemen responded to two fires and eight medical emergencies.

## Sunday, April 9

■ AUTO BREAK-IN — During the night someone broke into a gold 1999 Toyota Camry on the 500 block

## THE JOURNAL

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Craig Lazzaretti, Hills editor

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# Neighbors

## Sharks, Blackie's Pasture very delightful in Tiburon

*Editor's note: Martin Snapp is taking the week off. This past favorite originally ran Aug. 2, 2002.*

**T**HIS IS A COLUMN I've been waiting to write for almost a year — ever since this time last summer, when I got a call from a friend who said, "You've got to get over to Tiburon and look at the leopard sharks!" There must be thousands of them!"

So I gathered up my nephew Ariel and my nieces Anya and Yael, and off to Tiburon we went.

Sure enough, the place was like a leopard shark convention. They were swimming so close to shore, we could reach out and touch them if we wanted to — which, not surprisingly, we didn't.

They're only 2 or 3 feet long — much too small to be any danger to humans. And instead of one fin, they have three. And, yes, they have spots, just like leopards.

The kids were entranced. I was entranced. It was the closest of us will ever get to a wild animal in its own habitat.

Take the San Rafael Bridge to Marin, then take 101 South to Tiburon Boulevard. Turn right on Blackie's Pasture Road and take it to the end. Park and walk the 20 yards or so down to the water. Try to get there around high tide, because that's when they swim closest to shore.

And that's only half the fun, because after you've finished hanging out with the leopard sharks, there's one more thing to do: visit Blackie's Pasture.

It's an authentic piece of local history. You probably won't read about it in any textbook; but it's history, just the same.

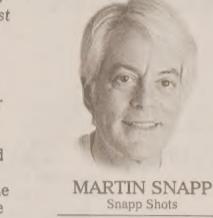
Once upon a time, there was a horse named Blackie. He was a real horse, and he lived from 1926 to 1966. He spent most of his working life as a cavalry horse. In those days, the Army stabled its horses at the Presidio during the winter. When spring came, they saddled up, rode to Yosemite, and patrolled the park all summer. In the fall they made the long trek back to the Presidio. Blackie was one of those horses.

Later, he worked as a cutting horse at rodeos. In 1938 he retired at the age of 12, and that's when his real fame began.

His owner, Anthony Connell,

kept him in his private pasture at the corner of Tiburon Boulevard and Trestle Glen Road.

Since, the only road in or out of town goes right by there; you couldn't pass without seeing "Old Blackie." He was hard



MARTIN SNAPP  
Snapp Shots

to miss: By his retirement he had a pronounced sway back, which got more pronounced every year.

The local residents soon began to feel that Blackie belonged to all of them.

In spite of his sway back, they admired Blackie for his military air and the pride that came from once being a great horse.

Mr. Connell would stop by every day to feed and water him, but so did many others.

Visitors of all ages could be seen regularly feeding Blackie carrots, sugar lumps and hay.

February 27, 1966, is a date that local residents have burned in their memory. That was the day Blackie collapsed and had to be put out of his misery.

"I can still remember driving by and seeing all these people huddled around Blackie, trying to ease his agony," says long-time resident Larry Smith. "It was one of the saddest days of my life."

As news of Blackie's death spread, residents looked for ways to express their grief. The Marin County Health Department granted them special permission to bury Blackie in his own pasture.

Children from nearby homes walked over to bid silent farewell to their old friend and erect a makeshift cross to mark his resting place. Other children planted flowers on his grave. Still other children wrote poems in his memory. And from grown-ups, wreaths and other floral tributes poured in daily.

Blackie's grave is still there, still covered with flowers and tended by a group of volunteers who call themselves "Blackie's Brigade." In 1995, a life-sized bronze statue of Blackie was erected in the pasture.

Blackie lived 40 years. That's a long time for a horse. Local residents are convinced that it was love — from old-timers and visitors alike — that sustained him. And that love obviously endures, 35 years after his death.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail [msnapp@cctimes.com](mailto:msnapp@cctimes.com).

### PET OF THE WEEK

**B**ERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: 1-year-old male black and white Boston terrier mix; 9-year-old black and tan Bernese mountain dog mix; 1-year-old female tan and black Malinois mix; 3-year-old female tricolor Australian shepherd mix; 11-month-old male white and brown Labrador mix; 3-year-old female tricolor Keeshond mix; 11-month-old male black and tan Rottweiler mix; 2-year-old female tan border terrier mix; 1/2-year-old male yellow Airedale/Labrador mix; 1/2-year-old female brown and white terrier mix; 2-year-old male liver and white pointer/springer spaniel mix; 5-year-old female black and tan Rottweiler/German shepherd mix; 8-year-old female black and tan dachshund.

Cats: 14-week-old female tortie Maine coon mix; 6-month-old male gray Korat mix; 6-year-old male tabby domestic short hair (DSH); 9-month-old male black and white DSH; 2-year-old male flame point Siamese mix; 5-year-old male brown tabby Norwegian forest mix; 2-year-old female orange and white domestic long hair (DLH); 3-year-old female tortie DSH; 1-year-old female tabby DSH; 4-year-old male brown tabby DSH; 10-year-old female blue Norwegian forest mix; 3-year-old male black and white DSH; 1-year-old female gray tabby DSH; 1-year-old female black DSH.

at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: [www.berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.berkeleyhumane.org) or call 510-845-7735.

**H**UGO is a 4-year-old male Burmilla/gray tabby domestic short hair mix, and may be available for adoption from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. This affectionate, playful boy would be a fine addition to any household, but Hugo would love to live in a home with other cat companions. For more information about Hugo or other animals available for adoption, call or visit the Humane Society.

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### FACES & PLACES

## Scholar program honors teacher

A scholarship program has been created in honor of Ed Hill, an Albany High School art teacher and coach for more than 30 years who died last year. Funded by memorial donations from family, friends and colleagues, the scholarship program will provide opportunities for AHS students to participate in workshops, classes and other activities outside of AHS classes that will enhance art skills and expand the breadth and depth of their art experience.

Applications for scholarships are available from Sarah Samonsky, chair of the AHS Art Department, and from AHS counselors. The deadline for application is May 15, 2006.

Donations to the Ed Hill Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to the Albany Education Foundation, 1320 Solano Ave., Suite 203, Albany, CA 94706. Checks should be made to AEF with a notation about the Ed Hill Memorial. For more information, contact Sally Outis at 510-558-6823.

— Craig Lazzaretti

### EASTER CELEBRATION:

New Life Church will hold a free Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse in Fairmont Park, 718 Lexington Ave., El Cerrito.

Kids of all ages are invited to



ALBANY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**T**YLER HOARE, SARAH SAMONSKY AND DIANNE MCENNENY, from left to right, hold applications for the new scholarship created in memory of former Albany High School teacher Ed Hill, who died last year. They are standing in front of a portrait of Hill painted by Maya Sanchez Haller, an AHS graduate and current art school student. Hoare is an Albany artist and longtime friend and colleague of Hill; Samonsky is chair of the AHS Art Department; and McNenny is president of the Albany Education Foundation.

share in an afternoon of fun with Easter egg decorations and crafts, prizes, special music and more. An egg hunt with games will be open to kids ages 2 through 12.

For more information, contact 510-868-1935 (message/FAX) or 510-932-5101 or e-mail [info@NewLifeInJesus.net](mailto:info@NewLifeInJesus.net).

— Craig Lazzaretti

### AUTO REPAIR WORKSHOP:

A free auto repair workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at Marty's Motors, 1029 San Pablo Ave. south of Potrero in El Cerrito.

The workshop is intended to teach women how to protect themselves from auto repair rip-offs, Mary Kaliski, the owner of the shop, said. Men are also welcome.

There will also be free automotive repair guides and

**AIRPLANE-DESIGN CONTEST:** Students have until Tuesday, April 25 to enter an airplane-design contest sponsored by Albany High School sophomore Lea Cohen. The contest will award \$100 to the winner.

Drawings, along with half-page explanations of the designs, should be submitted. Local judges will select the winner based on uniqueness and creativity.

The cost to enter is \$3, with proceeds donated to the Little Farm in Tilden Park.

Entries should be sent to Flying for Farms, P.O. Box #6468, Albany, 94706. They should include a name, address and telephone number. The winner will be notified by May 16.

Checks should be made out to the Future Leaders Institute.

— Alan Lopez

### RESIDENT HONORED:

El Cerrito resident Clio Hernandez, a bilingual licensed mental health practitioner for the County of Marin Health & Human Services, was honored recently as Civic Center Volunteers' 2005-2006 Supervisor of Volunteers of the Year. In her eight years in the County's Teen Health Clinic, Hernandez has managed and inspired numerous teen and adult volunteers.

— Craig Lazzaretti

### CHAMBER LUNCH:

Mitch Oshinsky, El Cerrito's community development director, will speak at the next El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce lunch on Tuesday, April 25.

The event will be held at noon at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club. Those planning to attend should let the chamber know by April 21.

The El Cerrito chamber is also planning a mixer on Wednesday, April 26 at the Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave. in Albany. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call the chamber at 510-233-7040.

— Alan Lopez

**H**ave an item about a scholar, an award, an event or another experience that you'd like to share with other Journal readers? If you have a photo — print or digital — we can use those, too. (Sorry, we cannot return print photos.) Send items for Faces & Places to the editor by e-mail: [journal@cctimes.com](mailto:journal@cctimes.com), or mailing to The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

## Wet weather takes toll on the park system

**T**HIS YEAR'S seemingly endless winter rains have generated an equally endless list of needed repairs in the East Bay Regional Parks, and the storm damage includes some big-ticket items.

The district staff is in the process of touring around with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to determine what assistance the federal government may be able to provide.

According to Anne Scheer, the district's chief of maintenance and skilled trades, there are 127 storm damage-related projects on the list so far, mostly slide repairs on internal park roads and trails. No parks have yet been closed because of access problems.

The most expensive repair project may turn out to be the one at Crown Beach in Alameda, where a lot of sand has been lost because of wind and wave erosion.

Erosion has long been a problem at Crown Beach, because decades of shoreline development have changed tidal and wave patterns. The beach was first restored in 1982, when more than 200,000 cubic yards of sand were dredged from the Bay floor between Alcatraz and Angel Island, then deposited at Crown.

Since then, more sand has had to be added from time to time. It's especially important, because the beach essentially protects Shore Line Drive from wave erosion.

Another large project is at the entrance to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness on Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. A slide has narrowed the road from two lanes to one, and exposed a water line. The park's staging area is still accessible,

There's a similar situation at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in Antioch. The only practical way to reach park headquarters is by



NED MACKAY  
Park It

way of Somersville Road, which passes through a narrow gorge along the way. That's where a slide has reduced the road to a width of one lane. Repair is critical, because Somersville Road is how school groups access the park for educational programs.

According to Scheer, the park with the most storm damage is Briones Regional Park south of Martinez. Briones has lots of fallen trees, muddy roads, and some large slides blocking the way.

Some of the park repairs will have to wait until the dry season, when equipment can get in to do the work. The Dis-

trict has a regular roads and trails crew, which grades all the park fire trails annually.

Not counting the work required at Las Trampas and Crown Beach, Anne gave a rough estimate of more than \$4 million as the cost of repair of damage from the record-breaking rainfall.

If you've finished your income tax returns, you can celebrate by joining Naturalist Nancy Krebs on a 5 1/2-mile hike through Redwood Regional Park in Oakland from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The hike is on the 2006 Trails Challenge list, for those who have enrolled in that.

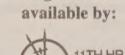
Dogs are welcome, though you should bring a leash for your canine friend.

The hike is free. Meet at the Canyon Meadow staging area, which is accessed from the park's Redwood Road entrance. For more information, phone 510-521-6887.

For a shoreline birding experience, join the Wednesday Walkers from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on April 19 at Hayward Re-

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Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located

EDITOR• CRAIG LAZZERETTI

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

# THE JOURNAL

... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

— Thomas Jefferson

## GUEST COMMENTARY

### Waterfront initiative restricts voters' options

By Bob Outis, Geoffrey Piller and Jean Safir

IN AN OPINION piece published April 7, Robert Cheasty suggested that The Journal has "lined up with the pro-development side when it comes to the Albany waterfront." There are two basic problems with this assertion.

First, The Journal focused on the need for a thorough planning process. It did not advocate for development. It made the following principal points:

■ The city should conduct a careful analysis of competing visions of the Albany waterfront.

■ It is essential that city leaders provide voters with an impartial look at the ramifications of any plan.

■ There is currently too much speculation and too little evidence, so independent experts need to take a close look at competing visions.

The Journal then listed 10 critical questions to be asked about any waterfront proposal, including questions about the impact on traffic, existing retail operations and housing issues.

If asking for an independent analysis of tough questions causes one to be branded "pro-development," we stand with The Journal because we believe Albany officials and voters are entitled to no less.

Secondly, Mr. Cheasty's reference to the "pro-development side" carries with it an implied presumption that there are only two sides to the Albany waterfront debate — a pro-development side and his side. It follows that every person who is not on his side must surely be on the "pro-development side." He and his associates may find this useful in framing the debate. But it is counterproductive to the process that The Journal has sought, and it derogates the intelligence, integrity and independence of Albany officials and voters.

In defending the proposed "Albany Shoreline Protection Initiative," of which he and Norman La Force of El Cerrito

are primary authors, Mr. Cheasty failed to rebut The Journal's assertion that it envisions a process "in which a coalition of environmental groups decide what's in the best interests of the people of Albany and restrict any discussion of the waterfront's future to their vision." Nor did he disclose that the initiative contains restrictive general plan amendments, and creates a planning "task force" stacked with representatives of that coalition. The Journal was correct in concluding that the initiative would restrict the range of waterfront land use proposals that could be presented to voters under Albany's Measure C.

The wisdom of The Journal's position became even more evident this past week when Mr. Cheasty presented the initiative to the Albany Waterfront Committee. He refused to answer questions about who was involved in drafting the initiative and what kind of study or analysis had gone into developing its terms. He did so by proclaiming that these and other questions were not questions at all. To his credit, he did admit that he knew little of the history or makeup of one of the groups that would be given a seat on the planning body created under the initiative. Mr. La Force, who joined in the presentation as Mr. Cheasty's attorney, offered no greater insight into those questions.

So, The Journal got it just right when it (1) called for an open, fact-based planning process that is informed by independent analysis and (2) contrasted that process with the restrictive and loaded process mandated by the proposed initiative. We thank The Journal for its insightful commentary. It is just what Albany officials and voters need as they consider and resolve difficult issues concerning the Albany waterfront.

Outis, Piller and Safir are residents of Albany.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Assembly

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530. 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

### AC Transit

**Joe Wallace:** Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

### Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-244-4668 or see online at [www.stegesd.dst.ca.us](http://www.stegesd.dst.ca.us).

### County Supervisors

**John Gioia:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530,

## NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### City government

**ALBANY** City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave. 510-528-5710

**Mayor Allan Maris**

**City Council** — Meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays at the City Hall Council Chamber.

**Community Development** — Includes planning, building and maintenance. 510-528-5760

**Web site:** [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org)

**EL CERRITO** City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300.

**Mayor Janet Abelson**

**City Council** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Mondays in the Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. 510-215-4305.

**Public Works** — Report problems with city trees and sidewalks, burned-out street lights, potholes and clogged storm drains. 510-215-4382.

**Recycling Center** — 7501 Schmidt Lane. 510-215-4350.

**Web site:** [www.el-cerrito.org](http://www.el-cerrito.org)

**KENSINGTON**

**Municipal Advisory Council** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses zoning and land-use issues. 510-526-5546.

**Police Protection and Community Services District** — Meets at 7:30

p.m. the second Thursday of each month, except August, at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses Police Department, Parks and Recreation and solid waste issues. 510-526-4141.

**Fire Protection District** — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. 510-527-8395.

**Police Protection and Community Services District** 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

### School boards

**West Contra Costa Unified School District** 510-620-2246

**Albany Unified School District** 510-558-3766

### Emergency numbers

**Albany, El Cerrito or Kensington fire, police or medical:** 911.

**Non-emergency**

**Albany fire** — 510-528-5770

**Albany police** — 510-525-7300

**El Cerrito, Kensington fire** — 510-215-4450.

**El Cerrito Police** — 510-237-3233.

**Kensington Police** — 510-233-1214; business line 510-526-4141.

**Sewer problems** — Stege Sanitary Service. 510-524-4667.

**Water services** — East Bay Municipal Utility District. 510-287-1380, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or 510-835-3000 after 4:30 p.m.

### Libraries

**Albany** — 1247 Marin Ave. Open noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays; noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed Fridays and Sundays. 510-526-3720

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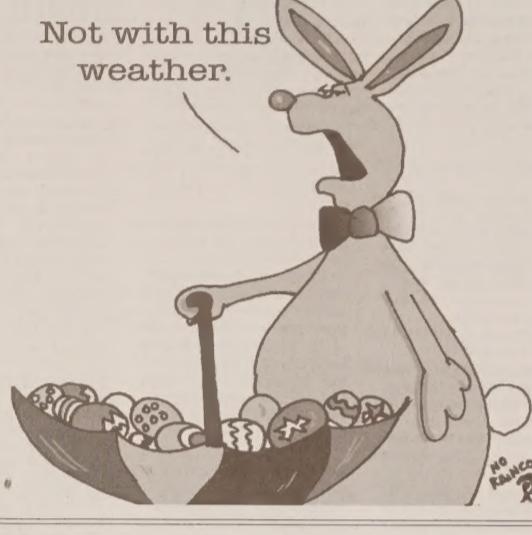
THE JOURNAL

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

## HAPPY EASTER

Not with this weather.

No basket this year?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't give City Council a blank check

If El Cerrito homeowners vote for the city's proposal for a new Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD), they will be voting for a 59 percent permanent increase in lighting district property taxes. That's just the beginning.

The bill will grow each year, forever, at the rate of inflation. The total tax for this year is based upon estimates of costs for every conceivable expense for what's on the district wish list. Included is a 6 percent annual reserve fund that the consulting engineer concedes could grow to equal annual expenditures.

The engineer's report arbitrarily assigns "special benefits" to people with lots larger than 5,000 square feet. A slightly smaller benefit is listed for smaller lots, although he concedes that those owners are more likely to use public recreation facilities.

The city manager's spokesperson says 70 percent of the city's residential lots are in the special benefit class. Since all the city and its businesses benefit from street lighting and park/tree maintenance, it is reasonable to consider LLAD costs a legitimate and necessary expense for the city government. Yet, the city proposes to shift cost to individuals while reducing its contribution from \$400,000, to \$70,000, this year.

Each vote is weighted according to the dollar amount of the owner's proposed new tax, a fundamental shift from the usual one vote per person in most elections. Why?

Since city income has been increasing each year for four years, the council's mention of possible public safety cuts (if the measure fails) is a scare tactic.

The only public hearing is April 17, the last day to vote. Don't give the El Cerrito City Council a blank check to reach its goal of raising property taxes "in perpetuity" (forever).

Kathleen Lander

El Cerrito

### Refuse to sign petition

Thank you for your March 31 editorial that endorsed objective information about development proposals for the privately owned land at the Albany waterfront. There are two more points that voters should know.

The first is the substantial expenditure — which the Albany city attorney compared to a project that costs about \$700,000 — of Albany taxpayer funds required by the Albany Waterfront Specific Plan Initiative for its planning effort. Approximately \$700,000 is realistic, given the need for objective, complete, professional data for planning.

The second point is that the taxpayer expense is not even mentioned in the initiative. It is a lot of money to avoid mentioning, especially when Albany has inadequate park maintenance, unfunded pension liabilities, storm sewer maintenance, street repairs and unfilled police positions competing for tax dollars.

Why is the taxpayers' cost not mentioned in the initiative? It's not because the initiative's authors don't know about it. At the Feb. 6 Albany City Council meeting, council members expressed strong concerns about Albany footing this big bill.

I can only conclude that the substantial size of this taxpayer expense, and a craven reluctance to make it explicit, are the reasons the expense is not mentioned in the initiative. This omission indicates a blatant disregard for fiscal impact and

for telling Albany residents an important truth.

These are strong reasons, in addition to those in your editorial, to oppose the initiative. I urge all to refuse to sign a petition for this initiative.

Carol O'Keefe

Albany

### Many unanswered questions

An entry in the "News Briefs" section of the March 17 Journal mentioned that the El Cerrito City Council instituted a fee for lighting and landscaping in 1988.

Does the City Council require the consent of homeowners only to increase this fee? Are the beneficiaries of the use of the fee only homeowners? Does paying the fee entitle homeowners to use of landscaped areas that will not be available to people who do not pay the fee?

If blocks of homeowners vote "no," will those blocks not receive maintenance of lighting and landscaping?

The "ballot" sent to property owners strikes me as a public relations ploy. If it were truly a ballot, wouldn't the name of the voter be submitted separately from the vote itself? As it stands, the name and address space is directly below the vote on a piece of paper that is to be sent in, as a whole.

If this is truly a ballot, why was all of the information sent with the yes/no page all in favor of increasing the fee for lighting and landscaping? Isn't it the American way to send information from at least two different points of view to the voters?

What was the cost to send out eight full pages of promotion, plus the return envelope with postage? Could that money have been put to direct use to maintain lighting and landscaping?

The "hearing" on this issue is scheduled on the day the ballots are due; the ballots may be turned in at the hearing.

Is this really a hearing at all? It appears to be another promotional attempt, rather than being a forum in which people can ask questions and express opinions enough in advance of turning in the forms to allow people to make considered judgments of the information.

The same "News Briefs" entry mentioned the reason for increasing the lighting and landscaping fee was to keep up with inflation. What is the rate of inflation compared with the increase in the price of gasoline that we all have to pay?

Why is the city of El Cerrito in need of extra revenue, in light of new developments along San Pablo Avenue that increase property tax revenues and business taxes?

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

I urge my fellow El Cerrito residents to mark "no" on their LLAD ballot.

Constance H. Cole

El Cerrito

### Run parasites out

In response to Lubov Mazur's question in his April 7 letter, "What more could they (Magna Entertainment and Caruso Affiliated) have done to make the whole plan better?" — the plan to push Measure C, that is — one need simply understand the state of affairs of these two entities.

Magna, a Toronto-based company owned by gambling magnate Frank Stronach, is struggling. This gambling and horse-racing syndicate has been bleeding money. From the Washington Post: "CEO Thomas Hodgson said earlier this month that the company will post a loss in the first quarter and may not be firmly in the black for two more years." Hodgson, CEO for 13 months, will be gone soon. The company unloaded \$64 million in assets last year and lost more than \$105 million.

Dollar Rent A Car heir Rick Caruso has more than 35 commercial and retail properties, and is incredibly wealthy. Caruso was a major contributor in the campaign to elect Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

There is one answer to this dilemma: Halt any plan to develop this valuable land until we have competent leadership in Albany. They are simply not up to the task and don't have the resources.

We don't need foreign gambling syndicates telling us what to do with our most valuable assets, especially a company that can't keep its balance sheets straight.

Either Magna sells this land to Albany at a price we can deal with or we invoke eminent domain to run these parasites out.

As far as Caruso and its "worldwide" credentials, I say we send them back to Los Angeles and let them exploit the southland. We don't need them, and we should definitely not be hanging with them in their garden party.

Robert L. Mendez

Albany

### Ends don't justify means

Admirably, Robert Cheasty has volunteered much of his time and talents to the city of Albany over the years. I find it hard to reconcile that Robert Cheasty with the one who wrote the guest commentary in the April 7 Journal.

He accuses those Albany residents who love their city and who want thoughtful development on the waterfront of misinforming people. He uses the word "mall" as a scare tactic, when the proposal he dislikes is no more than a mall beloved Fourth Street is in Berkeley.

He attempts to create a nefarious link between waterfront development and Republican political agendas, when the two have no connection. He dismisses Albany's overdue public works projects as so many wish-list items that will magically be completed ... not to worry.

But the most astonishing thing Cheasty does is mislead people about the initiative he supports. It will cost Albany residents millions, and it will forever banish any kind of interesting and appropriate development on our spectacular waterfront.

It is a great disappointment to watch respected Cheasty work for his vision of the waterfront using these types of disreputable tactics. The ends do not justify the means.

Elonra Cameron

Albany

# Toys at library enhance learning for children

The short, important answer (about toys in libraries) is that these things are part of reading readiness — manipulating real items is essential to children's learning."

— Contributor to posting on PUBYAC (Public Libraries for Young Adults and Children) about the use of toys in libraries



JULIE WINKELSTEIN  
At the Library

EVERY DAY as I sit at the children's reference desk, I can hear various clicking, clacking and other noises as children play with our toys. The most popular ones are the large Legos, while the surprise box and the busy box run a close second.

The dolls and cradle get less attention, but many times at the end of the day, I find one of the dolls tucked lovingly into bed or lying on our small child-size couch, covered with a blanket. The soft hand puppets are also in high demand and — as if they could get around on their own — I find them in strange places in the library, such as behind the checkout desk or sitting next to a computer.

In addition, there are the toys I keep behind the desk, on a low shelf where a bored child can easily browse them. Here there is a chess set, a Mankala board with shiny colored glass pieces, some easy puzzles and a few challenging educational toys. Of these, Mankala is by far the most popular, although many of our dominoes have been getting more attention. And, of course, the old standbys of crayons and paper are always in demand, by all ages.

When I started as the children's librarian at the Albany Library, there weren't any toys out for the children. I have slowly accumulated the ones we have, and they have been extremely popular. The Legos have been surprisingly versatile — ages 2 to 13 create towering stacks of these indestructible, brightly colored pieces. And I have learned one can create quite a hefty gun from them — something I hadn't expected, but probably should have.

The surprise box — which has four ways to pop up hidden figures — has an allure I noticed when my children were small. In fact, a ball, a pan of water and the surprise

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@alibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@alibrary.org) or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17.

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

### Albany

**Albany Senior Center** — Weekdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 846 Masonic Ave. Walking group Mondays, 9 a.m. Paper maché, bridge, chess, needlecrafts, world events, literature. A movie will be shown 1 p.m. Thursday. 510-524-9122.

### El Cerrito

**El Cerrito Committee on Aging** — Wednesday, 3 p.m. at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

**Christ Lutheran Senior Center** — Mondays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 780 Ashbury Ave. Current events, computers, needlecrafts and exercise. 510-524-1050.

**St. John's Senior Center** — Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 6500 Gladys Ave. Tai chi, sit-down exercises, conversational Spanish, and card and table

games. Tuesday, there will be senior peer counseling. 510-237-3808.

**The Open House** — Mondays, Thursdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 6500 Stockton Ave. Cultural arts, writing and language programs; computer classes; senior excursions; hiking; kayaking; art classes. 510-215-4340.

**Community Center** — 7007 Moeser Lane. There will be a tea dance Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments included with \$3 admission. 510-215-4340.

**Kensington**

**Kensington Senior Activity Center** — Thursdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. Instruction in conversational German, watercolor painting and meditation group. 510-526-9146.

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## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

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**Hours:** Mondays, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, closed; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Learn how to make your own flip book from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Flip books are a kind of animation you create yourself with pencils, pens or crayons. Each page of these tiny books shows the next small step in your picture story. When the book is finished, you can flip it and watch the action. Roberta Gould, local teacher, parent and author, will teach this workshop. It is free and for all ages. No registration is required and all materials are provided.

■ The library's teen movie program continues with a series of films by legendary anime director Hayao Miyazaki on the first Wednesday of the month. The following films are planned: May 3: My Neighbor Totoro; June 7: Kiki's Delivery Service; July 5: Spirited Away. This program is aimed at middle- and high-school students. All films are shown in the Edith Stone Room. They start at 5 p.m. and finish by 7:15 p.m. at the latest. For information, visit the teen area at the Albany Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Winkelstein at Ext. 20.

■ Free drop-in homework help is available for students in third through fifth grades. The homework center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail [jwinkelstein@alibrary.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@alibrary.org).

■ Weekly singalongs are held Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. with Dale Allen Boland. The sessions are free and for all ages. No registration is required. Call Julie Winkelstein at Ext.

■ The library is offering free beginning Internet classes on Saturday mornings. All classes start at 10 a.m. and last one hour. Please sign up in advance. The schedule of classes are as follows: April 22: All about e-mail; April 29: Useful Web sites; May 6: Health and medical information; May 20: Finding newspaper articles; May 27: Travel information; June 3: Finding magazine articles.

■ Children of all ages and their families are invited to the library on Saturday at 11 a.m. as Larry Kluger, also known as "Lariat Larry," presents his program of tall tales and rope tricks. This special National Library Week program is sponsored by the Friends of the El Cerrito Library. After the program, children who stay for another half-hour will get some tips for producing a winning entry for the 2007 West County Reads Calendar Art Contest from artist Robbin Milne. Children who are not able to stay for the Calendar Art program will be able to take home poster material and view a display of winning entries from last year on the library's bulletin board.

■ Children and their families are invited to the library for a series of

17.

■ Drop-in knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yarn and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

### El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave. 510-526-7512 or [www.ccilib.org](http://www.ccilib.org)

**Hours:** Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library is offering free beginning Internet classes on Saturday mornings. All classes start at 10 a.m. and last one hour. Please sign up in advance. The schedule of classes are as follows: April 22: All about e-mail; April 29: Useful Web sites; May 6: Health and medical information; May 20: Finding newspaper articles; May 27: Travel information; June 3: Finding magazine articles.

■ The spring series of Lapsit story times (formerly known as Babytime and Toddlertime) will continue through May 11. These story times, which meet Thursdays at 10:15 and 11 a.m., are for babies and toddlers up to age 3 and their caregivers. Each meeting lasts about 20 minutes, and includes songs, bounces, games and fingerplays in addition to the stories. No registration is required.

■ Readers Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month. Future titles: April 25: "The Great Fire" by Shirley Hazard; June 27: "Gilead" by Marilyn Robinson; July 25: "Stories for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr. The May meeting has been canceled.

■ If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hourlong appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Its Internet docents will help you learn as much as you would like. Call the library to make an appointment.

Monday evening family story times that will continue through Monday, May 8. Each of the meetings, which include songs and fingerplays as well as stories, will begin at 7 p.m. and last about a half-hour. The themes for the remaining story times will be "Hide & Seek, Lost & Found" on April 17, "Vroom! (Things That Go)" on April 24, "Pink Snouts & Curly Tails (Stories About Pigs)" on May 1 and "I Love You, Mom & Dad!" on May 8. For information, call the library.

■ Join Carole Terwilliger Meyers for a slide presentation on the latest edition of her book, "Weekend Adventures in San Francisco and Northern California," on Thursday at 7 p.m. The presentation will feature vacation wonders from Morro Bay in the south, to the Santa Cruz mountains, and north to the Wine Country and Eureka, including San Francisco and local East Bay places.

■ The next meeting of the library's knitting club will be held Monday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Come for an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. This group meets the first Monday of every month at the library.

■ Meet real wild animals during Bonnie Cromwell's Classroom Safari on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

■ Family story times will be held Tuesday evenings on May 9, 16 and 30 at 7 p.m. All ages welcome (best for preschool and older).

### Kensington Library

61 Arlington Ave. 510-524-3043 or [www.ccilib.org](http://www.ccilib.org)

**Hours:** Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays, closed; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ The library's book club will discuss the following titles in coming months: April 24: "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle; May 22: "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway; June 26: "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry; July 24: "The Sea Wolf" by Jack London; Aug. 28: "How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents" by Julia Alvarez; Sept. 25: "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain; Oct. 23: "The Piano Tuner" by David Mason.

■ Jan Robitscher and her dog Christy will teach how dogs interact and work with the visually impaired on Saturday, April 22, at 11 a.m. All ages are welcome.

■ The next meeting of the library's knitting club, "Castoffs," will be held Monday, May 1, at 7 p.m. Come for an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. This group meets the first Monday of every month at the library.

■ Meet real wild animals during Bonnie Cromwell's Classroom Safari on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome.

■ Family story times will be held Tuesday evenings on May 9, 16 and 30 at 7 p.m. All ages welcome (best for preschool and older).

Craig Lazzaretti  
E-mail library activity items to [journal@ccctimes.com](mailto:journal@ccctimes.com), or fax to 510-262-2776, or mail to El Cerrito Journal, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

## ALBANY SCHOOL NOTES

### Albany High School

#### Kensington Elementary

**PTA ELECTIONS:** The PTA will hold elections for its executive board on May 4 (the last general meeting of the School Year). To join the Board or to find out more about any of the positions, contact Katherine Meurer, treasurer, at [JKMEURER@ao.com](mailto:JKMEURER@ao.com).

**PEET'S CARDS:** \$20 Peet's Coffee & Tea gift cards will be sold every Wednesday morning from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. in the office breezeway and every Wednesday afternoon at the same location as the pizza sales. Peet's cards can be spent on coffee, tea and products at any Peet's store or online, and KEF gets 10 percent back. Questions? Call Netta Barry at 510-527-7898.

**SPELL-A-THON MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS:** Check with your employer's human resources department to find out whether your employer will match your donation to the school. Some employers will even honor contributions done in the previous school year (last year's Spell-a-thon or the fall Telethon). You will probably need to provide the date of your contribution, the amount, and the full name of the beneficiary (Kensington Education Foundation). KEF is a nonprofit group. Questions? Call Netta Barry at 510-527-7898.

**RECYCLE CHALLENGE:** Join Ms. Ruff's first grade class in the plastic bag recycle challenge. Bring your unwanted plastic shopping and grocery bags to room 5 or place in the collection box in the foyer of the school. Deadline is April 15.

See EL CERRITO, Page A6

Information is available at 510-526-4894 or [www.berkeley saxophone quartet.com](http://www.berkeley saxophone quartet.com).

**JAZZ FESTIVAL:** At the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, one AHS combos (Sam Kessel, Scott Nichol, Nina Lincoff and Mathew Ungson) received a rating of Excellent while another combo (Ariel Vento, Yvonne Lin, Morgan McLoughlin, Scott Nichol, Nina Lincoff and Jay Healy) received a rating of Superior from both judges (the highest rating a combo can receive). The jazz band earned a rating of Unanimous Superior, the highest rating a group can earn. Receiving this rating allowed the jazz band to be one of the few bands at the festival to play Saturday night at the command performance concert. Kamal Ghammache-Mansour received a \$500 scholarship, and Morgan McLoughlin received a \$1,000 scholarship from Berkeley School of Music in Boston.

**FILM PROJECT:** Calling all filmmakers, tapers and writers. Albany High's first 36-hour film project takes place April 29-30. For more information, visit [AHSVideoPro.com](http://AHSVideoPro.com) or e-mail [36@shsvideopro.com](mailto:36@shsvideopro.com).

**FUTURE FOCUS:** The newest issue of Future Focus is now available — jobs, summer programs, internships and more. Look for Future Focus on bulletin boards around school and on the AHS Web site.

**SPRING SPIRIT:** Spring Spirit starts next week. Monday, April 17, is "Dress like Your Hero Day." Tuesday is "70's and 80's Day." Wednesday is "Elementary School Day." Thursday is "Red and White Day," and Friday is "Tropical Tourism Day."

See ALBANY, Page A6

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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to [pmiddings@ctimes.com](mailto:pmiddings@ctimes.com) or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

## Coming Up

### Music

■ **Noon Concert Series** — UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall; free. April 14, Beethoven chamber music. April 19, music by Cindy Cox, poetry by John Campion. April 26, Javanese gamelan ensembles. April 28, Current Trends in Improvised Music. May 3, new works by graduate composers.

■ **Jazz guitar concert** — April 15, 1 p.m., A Cheerful Noise music store, 1228 Solano Ave., Albany. Mike Glendinning performs. Free. Details: 510-524-0411, [info@acheerfulnoise.com](mailto:info@acheerfulnoise.com).

■ **Javanese Music & Dance** — April 15, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. Gamelan Sari Saras, directed by Midyanto Sar and Benjamin Brinner. Cost: \$3-\$10.

■ **Mini Concert Series** — 8 p.m., Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave., Kensington. April 21, Carolyn Magrete plays meditative New Age music. — May 12, Bobby Ingrams combines piano & humor. —



MARK COSTANTINI

**ELLEN (BUFFY BAGGOTT)**, right, looks into the mirror and sees Nelle (Marnie Breckenridge) in a scene from Berkeley Opera's world premiere of "Chrysalis," a "hallucinatory riff" on cosmetic surgery by composer Clark Suprynowicz and librettist John O'Keefe. "Chrysalis" plays at 8 p.m. April 22 and 28, 7:30 p.m. April 26 and 2 p.m. April 30 at the Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets are \$40 general and \$15 youth/disabled. There are also \$10 student and \$20 senior tickets available at the door. Tickets are available by phone at 925-798-1300. For more information, call 510-841-1903 or visit [www.berkeleyopera.org](http://www.berkeleyopera.org).

**June 2**, Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble plays Dufay, Obrecht, Isaac, Taeggi, Gabrieli, more. — **June 30**, Bay Area Classical Harmonies performs Greek & Russian vocal music. Cost: \$15, \$50 for six concerts, \$2

children under 16. Details: 510-526-9146.

■ **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra** — April 22, 8 p.m.; April 23, 7:30 p.m.; First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. "Ode to Joy"

ter behavior applies for this dance.

**DANCE CHAPERONES:** Individuals are needed to chaperone the spring dance on Friday, April 21, from 8-10 p.m. in the AMS gym. Please e-mail Margot at [grabano@lmi.net](mailto:grabano@lmi.net) if you can help.

**THEATER PERFORMANCE:** This year's play, "From the Slums of Piedmont," is a comedy that parodies "8 Mile" and is written and directed by Mr. Gamba. The play is Friday and Saturday nights May 5-6 and May 12-13 at 7:30 p.m. in the AHS Little Theater. Play tickets are on sale at the school office. The cost is \$10.

**PTA LUNCHEON** PTA will host a luncheon honoring teachers and staff on Thursday, May 11. This year's luncheon will feature Japanese food. Donations are needed of Japanese appetizers (gyoza, tofu, edamame), salads (fruit salad, seaweed, cucumber or green salad with miso dressing, etc.) and Japanese main dishes such as sushi, teriyaki chicken and rice bowls. For dessert, brownies and cookies would be welcome. No soup or ice cream, please. If you would like to bring food, please specify what you'll bring by May 1 to Amy St.

George at 510-528-0848 or a.saint@pacbell.net. If you would prefer to donate money instead, please make out a check to AMS PTA and mail it to the AMS office, or bring cash to the AMS office and write "AMS PTA Teacher Appreciation" on the envelope.

search the Web, Cornell will already be selected.

**SPELLATHON:** The spellathon is under way. Cornell will continue to accept donations with gratitude. The fifth-grade band assembly will be on May 24 and the fourth grade assembly on May 31, both at 10 a.m. in the multipurpose room.

**ICE CREAM PRICES:** Partly because of increased costs for healthier options, ice cream prices will rise to 75 cents.

**LOST AND FOUND:** The lost and found box is overflowing. Please make an attempt to check it out for your child's missing clothing.

**RECIPES DRAWINGS:** PTA needs your recipe drawings for the International Cookbook. Please submit a recipe by April 28 to the cookbook folder on the office counter or the cookbook recipe folder on the PTA bulletin board (across from Cornell's main office).

**Original recipes, family recipes, anonymous recipes and recipes from cookbooks are all welcome (just include the cookbook name). You can also e-mail recipes to [reeves.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeves.linda@comcast.net). Also, encourage your child to enter the drawing contest associated with the cookbook. Details have come home on a flyer. For more information, contact Linda Reeves at 510-559-9782 or [reeves.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeves.linda@comcast.net).**

**SILLY OLYMPICS:** The Silly Olympics will be held Saturday, June 3. To not conflict with the STAR testing process, the T-shirt design contest will be early this year. It will officially start next week. The event will include some "X-treme events in honor of the Silly O's 10th anniversary.

**SPRING FLOWER SALE:** The PTA would like to thank all the students and families who helped make the spring flower sale a success. The students sold a total of 732 items, raising \$1,900 for the school. The biggest selling kindergarten or first grade class was Room 11, which sold 75 items. For second and third grade, the biggest selling class was Room 1, which sold 99 items. For fourth and fifth grade, the biggest selling class was Room 18, which sold 65 items.

The flowers and plants will arrive next week. A few volunteers are needed to help sort out and pack the orders. If you can help, please contact Karen at 415-865-7212 (work) or 510-525-1356 (home) or by e-mail at [danielm@scbglobal.net](mailto:danielm@scbglobal.net).

**GOODSEARCH:** You can earn money for the school by using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to search the Web. On the bottom half of the Web page, look for the words "I'm Supporting" and type in Cornell in the text box just below. Then Click the "Verify" button. From the list of schools and charities that appears, click "Cornell Elementary (Albany, CA)." From now on, each time you go to GoodSearch.com to

6:30-8 p.m. Ms. Wong and Ms. Coyle, science specialists, are working with fourth and fifth graders to prepare for this event. Students in other grades are welcome to participate in this project. Packets with directions will soon be available from the teacher and in the office.

**MARIN DE MAYO:** All Marin families

and friends are invited to the second annual Marin de Mayo Dinner catered by Picante on the Marin campus on Saturday, May 13, from 4-7 p.m. Visit with Marin families and friends while

enjoying great food, entertainment, crafts, raffles, and much more. Tickets go on April 17, and will be available at the April 19 Community Sing.

**PTA MEETING:** The PTA will meet on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The agenda includes the presentation of the draft budget for 2006-07, the Albany library tax proposal, and Marin de Mayo, among other items.

**GARDEN WORK:** Spring bulbs are popping up in the butterfly garden, new flowers are appearing in the courtyard, ancient yard debris is gone, the raised beds outside the classrooms have been weeded, and the Three Sisters garden has been cleaned and awaits planting. It's all the work of the Marin "garden fairies," who gave up their Saturday morning on March 26, even with rain threatening. The group will soon spruce up Marin with improved green areas, new trees, two outdoor classrooms, an edible garden, a poetry garden, and more. The garden fairies will have a booth at Marin de Mayo, including a schematic plan and photos of the edible schoolyard at King Middle School in Berkeley. Help is needed to complete the project, including a landscape architect/designer, carpenters, anyone with knowledge of straw bale construction, and other jobs to be identified. If you can help, please contact Cynthia at 510-525-8049 or Sheila at 510-524-1032.

**SEARCHING FOR A FINE DINING EXPERIENCE AND A GREAT VALUE?**

**OPEN HOUSE:** On Thursday, May 25, Ocean View, Cornell and Marin schools will hold their annual open house from 7-8 p.m. The Science Investigations Fair will be held in the multi-purpose room that evening from

concert features works of Beethoven, Cannabich. Tickets: \$28-\$62; 415-392-4400 or [philharmonia.org](http://philharmonia.org). Details: 415-252-1288.

■ **Kensington Symphony concert** — April 22, 8 p.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Features Young Soloist competition winner Chauncey Aceret, cello; music of Saint-Saens, Mozart, Sibelius. Suggested donation: \$8-\$10. Children free. Details: 510-524-9912.

■ **TrioMetrik plays NuRoque Music** — April 23, 8 p.m., Center for New Music and Audio Technologies, UC Berkeley, 1750 Arch Way, New Media Compositions by Jason Lai, Jay Cloidt, Keith McMillen. Tickets: \$10. Details: [cnam.berkeley.edu/triometrik.org](http://cnam.berkeley.edu/triometrik.org).

■ **University Bande** — April 23, 3 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. University Wind Ensemble performs works of Ticheli, Cichy, Grainger, Dale McGowan. Cost: \$3-\$10.

■ **Krystian Zimmerman** — April 23, 3 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Piano recital. Tickets: \$34-\$58; 510-642-9988.

■ **Mozart For Mutts and Meows** — May 6, 7-10 p.m., Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Gala fund-raiser of music by musicians from Midsummer Mozart Festival, appetizers, silent auction to benefit Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Tickets: \$75. Reservations by April 25; [berkeleyhumane.org](http://berkeleyhumane.org) or 510-845-7739 x19.

■ **Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra** — April 30, 3 p.m., Saint Joseph The Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. Beethoven Mass, Faure Pavane for Chorus, more. Free. Details: [bcco.org](http://bcco.org).

■ **Prokofiev Piano Concerto** — May 6-8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. University Symphony Orchestra performs Prokofiev, Strauss, Mozart. Cost: \$310.

■ **Healing Muses** — May 6, 8 p.m., St. Albans' Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. "The Flame of Love, The Legend of Tristan and Isolde." Celtic & medieval harp, spoken word, lute, more. Proceeds benefit program of bringing healing music to local hospitals, clinics, convalescent homes. Tickets: \$15-\$18. Details: [healingmuses.org](http://healingmuses.org); 510-524-5661.

■ **Berkeley Chamber Performances**

■ **Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion** — April 29, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. \$24-\$46; 510-642-9988.

■ **Community Music Day** — April 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Crowdron Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley. Free concerts, instrument petting zoo, face painting, prizes, more. Details: [crowdron.org](http://crowdron.org) or 510-559-2941.

■ **Octangle Wind Quintet** — Benefit concert for Healing Muses, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Jacob. \$10-\$12. Details: 510-644-6893 or [berkeleyartcenter.org](http://berkeleyartcenter.org).

■ **Organ Music at St. John's** — May 21, 4 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Robert Gary plays. Reception follows. Donation: \$10. Details: 510-845-6830.

— May 9, 8 p.m., Berkeley City 2315 Durant Ave, Avenue Windham Ligeti, Hindemith, Nielsen, Romero. \$20. Details: [berkeley.org](http://berkeley.org); 510-525-5211.

■ **Cal Performances Centennial Celebration** — May 12, 7:30 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. \$48-\$90. Half price for UC Berkeley students; \$2 discount for UC Berkeley staff, senior citizens, other students; \$3 discount for UC Berkeley association members. Tickets: 510-9988 or [calperformances.berkeley.edu](http://calperformances.berkeley.edu).

■ **Organ Music at St. John's** — May 21, 4 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Robert Gary plays. Reception follows. Donation: \$10. Details: 510-845-6830.

■ **Community**

■ **Blood Drives** — American Red Cross, April 14, 12-6 p.m., East Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley, East Pauley Ballroom, MLK Student Union, UC Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), 800-843-3333.

— May 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 5th Floor, Tilden Room, MLK Student Union, UC Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), 800-843-3333.

■ **GIVE-LIFE** — May 8, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Wells Fargo Room, Chabot 2222 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), 800-843-3333.

— May 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 3rd Floor, East Pauley Ballroom, MLK Student Union, UC Berkeley. Details: [BeADonor.com](http://BeADonor.com) (code UCB), 800-843-3333.

■ **Healing Muses** — May 6, 8 p.m., St. Albans' Episcopal Church, 1501 Washington St., Albany. "The Flame of Love, The Legend of Tristan and Isolde." Celtic & medieval harp, spoken word, lute, more. Proceeds benefit program of bringing healing music to local hospitals, clinics, convalescent homes. Tickets: \$15-\$18. Details: [healingmuses.org](http://healingmuses.org); 510-524-5661.

■ **Berkeley Chamber Performances**

See CALENDAR, Page

## Albany

FROM PAGE A5

**MYSTERY PARTY:** The buffer did it? Not in this mystery! In this interactive "Politics Can Be Murder; Hors D'oeuvres and Mystery Party," it could have been the gossip reporter, the quiet police officer or even one of the candidates running for Albany mayor. Figure out this whodunit yourself in a fun evening organized as a leadership project by AHS student Diana Hill as a benefit for a great cause. This charity event will take place in the multipurpose room on Saturday, April 22 from 6-8 p.m. Tickets go for a minimum suggested donation of \$20, and all proceeds will be directly donated to Project Open Hand in San Francisco, an organization that helps feed the families of low-income AIDS patients. Spots are limited, so early reservations are suggested. To RSVP, call 510-527-5310 and send a check, payable to the Future Leaders Institute, to the Institute at 2929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, with a note in the memo area indicating the donation is for Diana Hill's event. Other final PFL projects are coming in the next few weeks, and the final presentation/community celebration is scheduled for the Little Theater on Saturday, May 20, from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Albany Middle School**

**AMS MUSICAL:** The annual AMS musical is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 5-6 and 12-13. The play is held at the Albany High School Little Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available at the school office. The cost is \$10. Get your tickets early as the shows always sell out.

**MATH COMPETITION:** Congratulations to the students who participated in the Count on Girls math competition at the Julia Morgan School for Girls on April 1. The AMS eighth grade took third place, and seventh grade took second.

**WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Congratulations to the AMS wrestlers for their league championships in the seventh and eighth grade divisions and second place in the sixth grade division. Individual champions included Andrew Reggi, Jacob Purkey, Alex Holt, Aaron Pen-Kruger, Andy Choi, Brian Bernard and Marcellus Love.

**STUDENT DANCE:** The next student dance is scheduled for Friday, April 21, from 8 to 10 p.m. Students are eligible providing they have no suspensions, are not on tardy alert, and have no overdue library books. Third quar-

ter behavior applies for this dance.

**DANCE CHAPERONES:** Individuals are needed to chaperone the spring dance on Friday, April 21, from 8-10 p.m. in the AMS gym. Please e-mail Margot at [grabano@lmi.net](mailto:grabano@lmi.net) if you can help.

**THEATER PERFORMANCE:** This year's play, "From the Slums of Piedmont," is a comedy that parodies "8 Mile" and is written and directed by Mr. Gamba. The play is Friday and Saturday nights May 5-6 and May 12-13 at 7:30 p.m. in the AHS Little Theater. Play tickets are on sale at the school office. The cost is \$10.

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**RECIPE DRAWINGS:** PTA needs your recipe drawings for the International Cookbook. Please submit a recipe by April 28 to the cookbook folder on the office counter or the cookbook recipe folder on the PTA bulletin board (across from Cornell's main office).

**Original recipes, family recipes, anonymous recipes and recipes from cookbooks are all welcome (just include the cookbook name). You can also e-mail recipes to [reeves.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeves.linda@comcast.net). Also, encourage your child to enter the drawing contest associated with the cookbook. Details have come home on a flyer. For more information, contact Linda Reeves at 510-559-9782 or [reeves.linda@comcast.net](mailto:reeves.linda@comcast.net).**

**SILLY OLYMPICS:** The Silly Olympics will be held Saturday, June 3. To not conflict with the STAR testing process, the T-shirt design contest will be early this year. It will officially start next week. The event will include some "X-treme events in honor of the Silly O's 10th anniversary.

**SPRING FLOWER SALE:** The PTA would like to thank all the students and families who helped make the spring flower sale a success. The students sold a total of 732 items, raising \$1,900 for the school. The biggest selling kindergarten or first grade class was Room 11, which sold 75 items. For second and third grade, the biggest selling class was Room 1, which sold 99 items. For fourth and fifth grade, the biggest selling class was Room 18, which sold 65 items.

The flowers and plants will arrive next week. A few volunteers are needed to help sort out and pack the orders. If you can help, please contact Karen at 415-865-7212 (work) or 510-525-1356 (home) or by e-mail at [danielm@scbglobal.net](mailto:danielm@scbglobal.net).

**GOODSEARCH:** You can earn money for the school by using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to search the Web. On the bottom half of the Web page, look for the words "I'm Supporting" and type in Cornell in the text box just below. Then Click the "Verify" button. From the list of schools and charities that appears, click "Cornell Elementary (Albany, CA)." From now on, each time you go to GoodSearch.com to

6:30-8 p.m. Ms. Wong and Ms. Coyle, science specialists, are working with fourth and fifth graders to prepare for this event. Students in other grades are welcome to participate in this project. Packets with directions will soon be available from the teacher and in the office.

**MARIN DE MAYO:** All Marin families and friends are invited to the second annual Marin de Mayo Dinner catered by Picante on the Marin campus on Saturday, May 13, from 4-7 p.m. Visit with Marin families and friends while

enjoying great food, entertainment, crafts, raffles, and much more. Tickets go on April 17, and will be available at the April 19 Community Sing.

**PTA MEETING:** The PTA will meet on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. The agenda includes the presentation of the draft budget for 2006-07, the Albany library tax proposal, and Marin de Mayo, among other items.

**GARDEN WORK:** Spring bulbs are popping up in the butterfly garden, new flowers are appearing in the courtyard, ancient yard debris is gone, the raised beds outside the classrooms have been weeded, and the Three Sisters garden has been cleaned and awaits planting. It's all the work of the Marin "garden fairies," who gave up their Saturday morning on March 26, even with rain threatening. The group will soon spruce up Marin with improved green areas, new trees, two outdoor classrooms, an edible garden, a poetry garden, and more. The garden fairies will have a booth at Marin de Mayo, including a schematic plan and photos of the edible schoolyard at King Middle School in Berkeley. Help is needed to complete the project, including a landscape architect/designer, carpenters, anyone with knowledge of straw bale construction, and other jobs to be identified. If you can help, please contact Cynthia at 510-525-8049 or Sheila at 510-524-1032.

**SEARCHING FOR A FINE DINING EXPERIENCE AND A GREAT VALUE?**

**OPEN HOUSE:** On Thursday, May 25, Ocean View, Cornell and Marin schools will hold their annual open house from 7-8 p.m. The Science Investigations Fair will be held in the multi-purpose room that evening from

grades 1-5. The state is continuing to

fund elementary summer school only for students who are at risk of not meeting end-of-year grade level standards in reading and math. Later this spring, applications will be sent only to families of students identified by district assessment.

**OPEN HOUSE PROJECTS:** In connection with open house, fourth- and fifth-graders will be developing and presenting science projects in the multipurpose room on May 25. Participation is optional for K-3 students, and more information will be coming next week.

**PTA LEADERSHIP BOARD:** Have you considered becoming a member of PTA's leadership board? All current board members will be moving on next year. Please consider attending April PTA meeting for more information.

grades 1-5. The state is continuing to

fund elementary summer school only for students who are at risk of not meeting end-of-year grade level standards in reading and math. Later this spring, applications will be sent only to families of students identified by district assessment.

**BOOK FAIR:** The Spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the library April 25-28. To volunteer, please contact Nora Hirose at 510-215-1942 or [nihirose@scbglobal.net](mailto:nihirose@scbglobal.net) or Debbie Hayakawa at 510-528-8803 or [hayakawa@scbglobal.net](mailto:hayakawa@scbglobal.net).

**SPRING CARNIVAL:** The Kensington Hilltop School's PTA and Dads' Club will host the school's 59th annual spring carnival on Saturday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. As in recent years, the 2006 carnival will include a wide range of games for kids of all ages, a great selection of prizes, lunch offerings from the Dads' Club grill, treats from the bake sale, and a fire from the Kensington police and fire departments. And, as has been

the case for the previous 22 years, the quilt designed and crafted by Kensington parents will be raffled off this afternoon. For more information, contact Alison Roberts (Kensington Hilltop) by e-mail at [alisonroberts@scbglobal.net](mailto:alisonroberts@scbglobal.net) or Walt Gill (Dads' Club) at [waltgill33@comcast.net](mailto:waltgill33@comcast.net).

— Craig Lat

**SCHOOL NOTES** may be e-mail to [journal@ctimes.com](mailto:journal@ctimes.com), fax to 510-262-2776, or mailed to [El Cerrito Journal](http://ElCerritoJournal.com), 4301 Lake Drive, Richmond, CA 94806.

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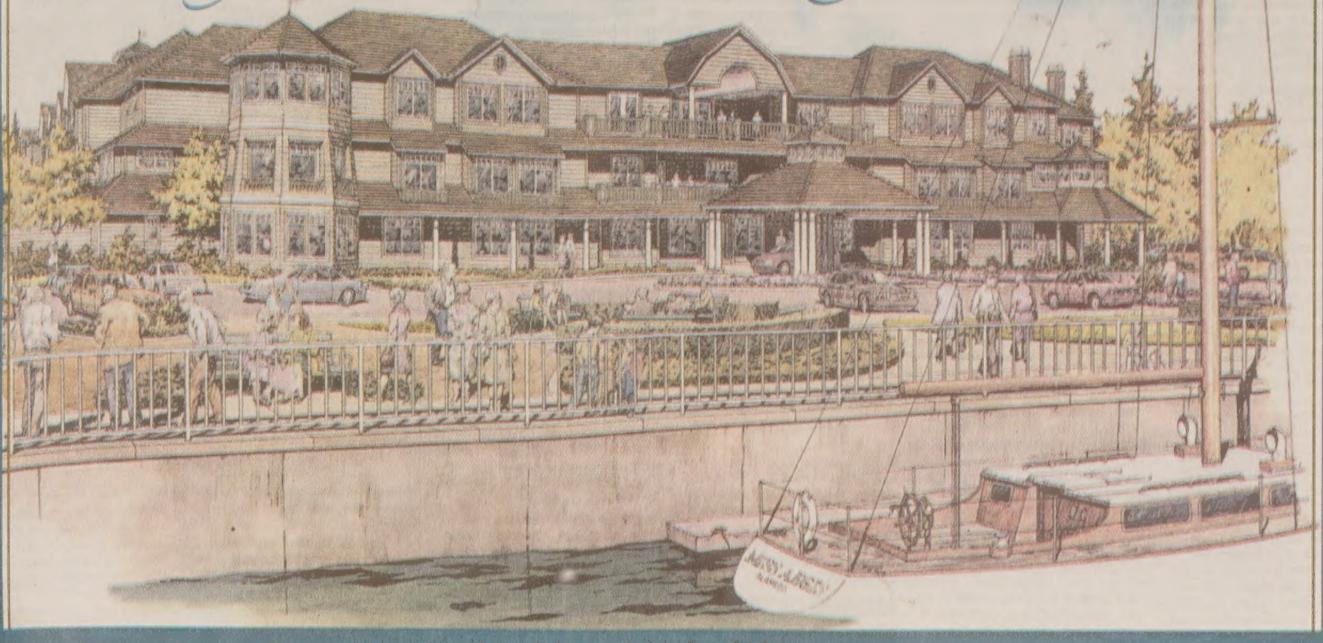
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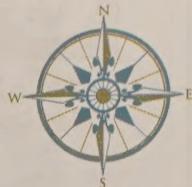
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## Calendar

FROM PAGE A6

**Berkeley Chamber of Commerce**

— April 18, Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley. Business to Business Lunch; topic is Customer Service. Cost: \$25-\$50. Register by April 14. Details: 510-549-7003.

**Hopalong Animal Rescue** — Pet adoption events. April 15, 22; 12-3 p.m., Your Basic Bird, 2940 College Ave., Berkeley; cat available. — April 22, 12-3 p.m., PetSmart, 1001 Eastshore Expressway, Albany; dogs available. Details: hopalong.org or 510-287-1915.

**Rabbit adoptions** — April 15, 1-4 p.m., RabbitEARS Rescue Store, 303 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Rescued bunnies available. Free. Details: 510-525-6155 or fixpets@yahoo.com.

**Free Tax Return help** — AARP Tax-Aide tax counseling & preparation service can help with most of tax issues faced by middle & low-income taxpayers, especially those age 60 and older. Details: 888-227-7669 through April 15, or visit aarp.org/taxaide.

**Community Labyrinth Peace Walk** — April 16, 3 p.m., Willard Middle School, 2425 Stuart St., Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. Rain cancels. Details: info@eastbaylabyrinthproject.org or 510-526-7377.

**St. John's Prime Timers Senior Center** — St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. April 18, 11 a.m., Genealogical research discussion with Rick Sherman. — April 23, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. Prime Timers Tap Dancers perform in annual show "Gill Chun's Bay Area Follies." Tickets: \$10-\$15. — April 25, 11 a.m., Shirley Pan shows slides of her trips to China & White Mountains. Details: 510-845-6830.

**Edith Cowper Festival of Cultures** — April 22, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. International food, dancing, more. This year's focus is on Switzerland: yodeling, food, more. Admission: \$5-\$7. Details: house.Berkeley.edu, 510-642-9461.

**Berkeley Earth Day Fair** — April 22, 12-5 p.m., Civic Center Park, Martin Luther King Jr. & Allston Ways, Berkeley. 12-1:15 p.m., National Dance Week performers. 1:30-3 p.m., Alice DiMichele Band. 3:30-5 p.m., Reggae Angels, Berkeley's Market Family Farm Day, vegetarian food, craft & community booths, climbing wall. Valet bicycle parking. Volunteers needed, call 510-654-6346 x2. Details: Hesternet.net.

**Berkeley Historical Society** — Spring 2006 Walking Tours, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. April 22: Earthquake Relief Efforts on the U.C. Campus in 1906.

**May 6: Past and Promise Along Santa Fe Right of Way, May 20: Sisterna Tract in West Berkeley: A Small Chilean Ranch Transformed, June 3: Lorin: Kindred Spirit or Conquest? June 10, 11 a.m., New Berkeley City College Building. Cost: \$8-\$10 each, \$30 for all tours. Reservations: make check payable to Berkeley Historical Society, mail to P.O. Box 1190, Berkeley, CA 94701. Details: cityofberkeley.info/histsoc/ or 510-848-0181.**

**Watchword Cartoon Brunch** — April 23, 11-4 p.m., Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Old & new cartoon screening, breakfast, live music, handmade craft & clothing sale. Show up in pajamas & get a free cup of coffee. \$5. Proceeds benefit Watchword Press. Details: 510-845-0304 or watchwordpress.org.

**Draft workshop** — April 23, 1:15-4:30 p.m., Berkeley Friends Church, 1600 Sacramento St., Berkeley. Three-hour workshop "Draft Registration and Conscientious Objection - What every teenager needs to know." Free. Details: Faith 925-274-0900 (leave message) or brewers@ifn.net.

**Berkeley City Club tours** — April 23, 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m.; 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Free docent-led tour of "little castle" designed by Julia Morgan. Donations welcome. Details/reservations: 510-848-7800 or 510-883-9710.

**Holocaust Remembrance Day** — April 24, 12 p.m., City Council Cham-

bers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. Features live music, poetry readings, speakers include survivors & their progeny, survivors light candles. Details: 510-981-7170.

**WCCUSD Golf Classic** — April 24, 1 p.m., Franklin Canyon golf course, Highway 4, Hercules. West Contra Costa County Unified School District's El Cerrito & Pinole Valley High schools present fund-raising tournament. Includes lunch, raffle, silent auction. Players & sponsors needed. Details: Roddy at fle@wccusd.k12.ca.us or 510-525-6775.

**"How'd You Become Activists & What Now?"** — April 28, 7 p.m., Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. Features human rights activists Paul Larudee & Barbara Behrend, \$10 donation. Details: 510-528-5403.

**Free Mercury Thermometer Exchange** — And Unwanted Medicine Disposal, April 29, 12-5 p.m., Green Home Expo, Civic Center Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Way & Center Street. Bring mercury thermometers in original cases or in two zipper bags. One free digital thermometer per household. Bring unwanted or expired medicine in original containers with your name marked out. Details: ebmud.com/clearbay or 510-287-1651.

**Berkeley Heritage Spring House Tour** — And Garden Reception, May 12 p.m., Claremont Park, Berkeley. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association's tour explores residential work of Walter H. Ratcliff Jr. Tour map, illustrated guidebook, refreshments provided. Cost: \$25-\$35. — May 4, pre-tour lecture by author Woodruff Mind \$10. Details: berkeleyheritage.com, baha@berkeleyheritage.com, 510-841-2242.

**A Taste of El Cerrito** — May 7, 5-9 p.m., El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Local restaurants showcase food specialties. Silent auction fund-raiser benefits El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce Business Scholarship Fund. Details: TasteofElCerrito.com.

**59th annual Hilltop Spring Carnival** — May 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Kensington Hilltop School, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. Games, prizes, lunch, baked goods, visit from Kensington Police & Fire Departments, quilt raffle. Proceeds benefit PTA & Dads' Club. Details: alisonroberts@aol.com or wvwill335@comcast.net.

**La Place du Marche** — May 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 1009 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. School becomes an authentic French marketplace. French products for sale; French food & drinks; arts, crafts & games for children; French music; raffle for trip to Paris & more. Proceeds benefit Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley. Details: eb.org.

**Outdoors**

**Recreational Equipment Inc.** — Free events at 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. April 18, 7 p.m., Hiking the John Muir Trail. — April 23, 10-11 a.m., Hands-on Bicycle Clinic. — April 30, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., San Pablo Reservoir, Berkeley. Paddle Demo Days. Try out canoes & kayaks on water. Paddling experts share tips. Free. Details: 510-527-4140 or rei.com/stores.

**Bay-Friendly Garden Tour** — April 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Alameda County. Self-guided tour features 34 private & public gardens. Native & Mediterranean plants, vegetable starts available for purchase. Registrants receive tour guidebook with directions, descriptions. Free. Registration: by April 20 at BayFriendly.org or 510-444-7645.

**Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** — May 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., locations in Alameda & Contra Costa counties. Free. Receive passes, printed guide to 65 gardens containing 30+ percent native plants. Native plants available for sale; garden talks offered. Registered by April 20 at BringBackTheNatives.net. Volunteers needed, will receive private garden tours. Details: at Website, Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net, or

**Lawrence Hall of Science** — April 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holbrook Building, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Through April 22, "Buddhist Images" by Jan Eldridge. April 4-June 29, "Behind the Scenes" — Through April 29, "The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946" book signing & slide show. Free. — Through January 2007, "Making Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Family Religion in Ancient Israel." Details: 510-849-8201.

**Schurman-Scriptum Gallery** — Through May 31, 1659 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. "Kawase Hasui & His Era: Masters of the Japanese Woodblock Print." Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. Free. Details: Elise 510-526-1236 or elisescritum@yahoo.com.

**"Full Circle: Mandala"** — Through May 12, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave. April 30, 4-6 p.m., artists' reception. Paintings in the round by Margaret Lindsey & Susan St. Thomas; pine needle & clay vessels by Melissa Woodburn. Details: 510-204-1667.

**ASUC Art Studio** — "Travelogue - Mark Shaw: Photographs and Musings About Life in Cambodia, Cuba and Along the Mekong River," through April 30, ASUC Art Studio Gallery, MLK, Jr. Student Union Building, UC Berkeley campus. Details: 510-642-3065 or asucartstudio.org.

**Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley** — One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. April 17-19, 22, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Auditorium, Quakes and Shakes; learn about earthquake engineering. — April 14 & 20, 12-2 p.m., Creepy Crawlers, Insect-inspired activi-

ties for visitors 3-7. — April 18, 12-2 p.m., Anniversary of 1906 Quake. "Be prepared." — April 21, 12-2 p.m., Ken Bergmann's "Percussion Discussion;" make your own percussion instruments. Details: lawrencehall-of-science.org.

**Ames Gallery** — Through April 30, Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. "Focusing on Photography: Vintage Photographs from Our Collection," "Dwight Macintosh." Details: 510-845-4949 or amesgallery.com.

**La Pena Cultural Center** — 3105 Shattuck Ave. Through April 30, lobby, work of Egyptian sculptor Ahmed Said. In cafe, "Los Ojos del Paraiso," works by Cecilia Elvira Garcia. In theater, "International Women's Month: A Celebration of Women," paintings/photos by Thela Bellos, Ellen Greene, Gabriela Nunez, Marie-Jose Durquet. Details: lapena.org or 510-849-2569.

**"Big Dinos Return" exhibit** — Through May 7, Lawrence Hall of Science, One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Features robotic dinosaurs. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehall-of-science.org.

**Judah L. Magnes Museum** — Through May 14, "Houses & Holdings: Portability in Jewish Faith and Culture." 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Details: magnes.org or 510-549-6950.

**"Wild Things" exhibit** — Through May 14, Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tilden Nature Center, 600 Central Park Drive, Tilden Park, Berkeley. See Rita Sklar's watercolor paintings of African animals & American, European, African birds. Details: r-tasklar.com.

**"The Sculpture of Stephen De Staebler"** — Through May 15, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley. Details: 510-649-2541 or cwoulfe@gtu.edu.

**UC Berkeley Art Museum** — Through May 21, "Dreaming California: Ruth-Marion Baruch, Bill Owens and Lucy Lantos." — Through May 28, "Now-Time Venezuela, Part 1: Worker-Controlled Factories." — Through Dec. 3, " Bancroft Library Centennial Exhibition: A Celebration 1906-2006." — Through June 24, 2007, "A Measure of Time: American Art 1900 to the Present." 2625 Durant Ave. #2250, Berkeley. Details: bampfa.berkeley.edu or 510-642-0808.

**CSI: Crime Scene Insects** — Through May 29, Lawrence Hall of Science, One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Exhibit explores forensic entomology through field & lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, interactive displays. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., tours by M. Lee Goff, Ph.D. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehall-of-science.org.

**Boda Museum** — Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holbrook Building, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Through March 30, "Buddhist Images" by Jan Eldridge. April 4-June 29, "Behind the Scenes" — Through April 29, "The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946" book signing & slide show. Free. — Through January 2007, "Making Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Family Religion in Ancient Israel." Details: 510-849-8201.

**Eclectis' Gallery Opening** — April 15, 6 p.m., 7523 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito. Through July 4, Group Show of Mixed Media Works. Artists include: Chris Fortin, Patricia Mitchell, Karla Brulk, William Dunton, Susan Billings, Chuck Mitchell. Free. Details: 510-364-7216.

**Berkeley Treasures Series 1:** — Karl Kasten, Ariel, Lewis Suzuki, — Through May 20, Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. Artists submit five professional quality color slides of their artwork to one year. Details: applications: cl.berkeley.ca.us/civilarts/publishart.htm. Details: Robbin 510-644-8893; Mary Ann 510-981-7533/mrmerker@cl.berkeley.ca.us; or Sanaz 510-981-7541/stofghrad@cl.berkeley.ca.us.

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**La Cerrito Art Association** — April 28-30, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Details: 510-526-9564.

**"Figuresque"** — Through April 29, Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St., Berkeley. Barbara Maricle shows her recent figure paintings in acrylic & oil.

**"Full Circle: Mandala"** — Through May 12, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave. April 30, 4-6 p.m., artists' reception. Paintings in the round by Margaret Lindsey & Susan St. Thomas; pine needle & clay vessels by Melissa Woodburn. Details: 510-204-1667.

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**Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley** — One Centennial Drive, Berkeley. April 17-19, 22, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Auditorium, Quakes and Shakes; learn about earthquake engineering. — April 14 & 20, 12-2 p.m., Creepy Crawlers, Insect-inspired activi-

ties for visitors 3-7. — April 18, 12-2 p.m., Anniversary of 1906 Quake. "Be prepared." — April 21, 12-2 p.m., Ken Bergmann's "Percussion Discussion;" make your own percussion instruments. Details: lawrencehall-of-science.org.

**Los Amiguitos de la Pena** — Children's programs at 10:30 a.m., La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. April 15, Estela Knott & David Berzonky. April 22, Colibri. Tickets: \$3-\$4. Details: lapena.org.

**Habitat Children's Museum** — Events at 2006 Kitteredge St., Berkeley. April 19, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 8th Birthday Celebration. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Lovee the Clown, crafts, cake at 12:30 p.m. Bring a new or used toy for Toy Lending Library & receive a free admission guest pass. Free admission day. — April 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Earth Day celebration. Make hand-made recycled paper, nature collages, art sculptures. Free admission day. De-

tails: 510-647-1111 or habitat.org.

**Support**

**Albany Lyme** — Monthly May 2, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Albany 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. Supportive group that provides information about Lyme disease medical resources & support groups. Details: albanylyme.org or AlbanyHouse.org.

**Widows/Widowers Grief**

— Class & Support Group, through May 16, 7-9 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Dana St., Berkeley. Have you or someone you know experienced the loss of a spouse within last couple of years? Find hope, support & success to process this significant life. Workbook: \$5. Pre-enrollment 848-6252 x241.

See CALENDAR, P.

## Business

FROM PAGE A1

The two are working on the May 7 Taste of El Cerrito event and promotional materials that may include a business map and brochure and business awards.

"I think their purpose and my purpose truly is to make businesses succeed in El Cerrito," Giles said. "How to do that is to bring consumers to their door and make it exciting and fun to shop here."

In addition, the redevelopment agency is planning to make aesthetic improvements and complete a city marketing plan in an effort to draw new businesses.

The agency is also looking at spending \$4.7 million over the next five years to help beautify San Pablo Avenue, its main commercial corridor. That will include new banners, landscaping and medians, as well as a crosswalk with flashing lights at Madison Avenue.

"Improving the streetscape on its own will encourage private investment," El Cerrito Redevelopment Manager Lori Trevino said. "People don't want to invest in a piece of private property and not have the public property in front of it look attractive. It doesn't do them any good."

The city's renewed focus on the business climate is a result of the redevelopment agency's good economic fortune. Increased property values in the redevelopment area have driven up property tax revenue, allowing the agency to issue bonds for millions of dollars more.

That will enable the agency to do over the next five years what city officials say many residents have requested: improving the senior center and library and San Pablo Avenue.

Trevino said the agency is also planning to spend about \$250,000 annually over the next five years on business workshops, graffiti elimination and business-assistance programs, such as loans for small business owners wanting to seismically retrofit their buildings or improve their aesthetics.

In the meantime, the city is working on an economic development plan to identify where new businesses can locate and then how to attract and promote them.

An analysis of the city's busi-

ness climate and opportunities for improvement will be presented at an April 18 meeting before the city's economic development board and other.

The analysis, conducted in part on a survey of shoppers and business that drew 1,300 responses, Trevino said.

It's the first step of a step plan for marketing to outside businesses as well as those located within the city. The step is finding out what businesses the city should recruit where to locate them. At the city would be keting plan.

"The more successful businesses are, the better the city is," Dalman, 42, said. "The more successful businesses create more employment opportunities for people, more tax that can go into the city."

"People should understand that when you shop local, you spend money on local businesses, how that benefits the community you live in. That's part of marketing efforts, marketing the things available in El Cerrito that people know about."

So far, the only down this renewed interest in the business climate appears to be concern about parking, particularly at San Pablo and Fairmount avenues, where Mechanics located.

During her meeting with Giles, Trevino said, the city could enforce the parking restrictions, but the issue is where to move them.

Aelson suggested the city could enforce the parking restrictions, but the issue is where to move them.

"It's the nature of the Area and an issue for necessities," McCarthy said. "To me at least seems to be an effort to address

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail allopez1@ctimes.com.

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orth United Methodist Church  
on event series, 1953 Hopkins  
Key, April 16, 6:23 a.m., sun-  
service with refreshments to fol-  
16, 10-11 a.m., worship ser-

vice, Easter egg hunt follows for chil-  
dren through 5th grade; bring a basket.  
Details: 510-524-2921 or epworth@  
berkeley.org.

■ **Hillside Community Church** —  
April 16, 10:30 a.m., 1422 Navelier  
St., El Cerrito. Easter Sunday worship  
service, with Community Feast, Easter  
Egg Hunt following. Details: 510-235-  
3646 or caretaker@ecswedenbor-  
gan.org.

■ **Spiritual Talks** — Alternating Tues-  
days starting April 18, 6:30 p.m., To-  
mato Cafe, 2265 Fifth St., Berkeley.  
Yoga philosophy, decoding religious  
language, practical health, social com-  
mentary with David Korman. Free. De-  
tails: 510-549-9885.

■ **Living the Questions** — Discussion  
Series, April 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., First  
Congregational Church of Berkeley,  
Small Assembly Room, 2345 Chan-

ning Way. Rita Nakashima Brock talks  
on "Social Justice and the Prophets."  
Free. Details: 510-848-3696 or  
fcb.org.

■ **Berkeley-Richmond Jewish Com-  
munity Center** — Events at 1414 Wal-  
nut St. April 20-27, Thursdays 7 p.m.  
Single and Seeking (Again). \$60/5-  
week session. — April 20-May 26,  
7:30-9 p.m. Thursdays, "Finding Your  
Creative Voice: A Women's Writing

Workshop with Yosefa Raz. \$90/6-  
week series. — April 20, 5:30-8:30  
p.m., Opening Reception for "Under a  
Rock," with artist Jean Favver. Free.

— April 20-May 25, Thursdays 10:30-  
11:45 a.m., My Toddler and Me Dis-  
covery Group. \$12/session. — April  
23, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 50+ Singles  
Books, Discussions, and Fellowship  
Group. Free. — April 23, May 21;  
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 50+ Singles'  
Books, Discussions & Fellowship

Group. Free. — April 27, 7:30 p.m.,  
"Dancing with Wonder: Self-Discovery  
Through Stories workshop. \$5. Details:  
brjcc.org or 510-848-0237 x132.

■ **Contemplative Prayer Disciplines**  
— Morning retreat, April 22, 9 a.m.-1  
p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2407  
Dana St., Berkeley. Learn prayer prac-  
tices such as lectio divina & Prayer of  
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9386 or newcollegeberkeley.org.

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS

## Summer

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The Academy is an independent, co-educational school for students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The school offers a structured and accelerated academic program in a warm family atmosphere for students who are well motivated and eager to learn.

While the curriculum is traditional and academic, it is also rich in opportunities for creative experience and expression. It is the school's philosophy that only upon knowledge can creative potential best be realized and self-expression more fully developed.

The Academy offers summer programs of academics and recreation. Morning academic classes focus on improving students' math and English skills as well as help-

ing students gain confidence and ease in these subject areas. Afternoon recreation classes are a variety of drama, arts and crafts, ceramics, swimming, science, and Friday field trips! We offer full day care services as well as a morning program for children starting kindergarten in the Fall.

The school is ethnically, culturally, and socio-economically diverse. This diversity is celebrated in the daily life of the school as students' friendships cross the boundaries of age, gender and background.

Please check our web site at [www.academyk-8.com](http://www.academyk-8.com). Please phone the school for more information and to schedule a tour. Call (510) 549-0605

### MONART SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Monart is an after-school and home school educational program that offers fine art classes for children, teens and adults. Monart is located at 1918 Encinal Avenue.

The curriculum used in the MONART art classes is based on the method and philosophy described in the best-selling books "Drawing with Children" and "Drawing for Older Children & Teens" by Mona Brookes. Since 1979, the MONART Method has achieved phenomenal results among children and adults worldwide, including those with learning difficulties.

Leading educators recognize MONART as a teaching system that helps students experience

increased self-esteem and creativity and develop the skills and confidence that also transfer to many other subjects.

Each week the MONART lessons are based on a particular theme, giving students enough structure to ensure success and enough freedom to be independently creative. Each lesson also includes relevant and age-appropriate academic curriculum, which provides students with additional depth to their drawing experience.

To learn more about MONART, go to <http://alameda.monart.com> or call 521-DRAW (3729) to receive a complete program brochure.

### AURORA SCHOOL

Aurora School is a leader among Bay Area elementary schools, recognized for its excellence in curriculum, teaching strategy and community involvement. Aurora students are lifelong learners with the strength and skills to succeed in a future full of change and challenge. We are committed to ethnic, racial, cultural, economic and familial diversity (including gay and lesbian, adopted, single parent families and children with physical disabilities). Diversity offers one of the most powerful

ways of creating acceptance and mutual respect in our society. We are a community of learners. Students, parents and teachers work together to create an environment that encourages curiosity, problem solving, creativity, intellectual perseverance, teamwork and play. Our classrooms foster risk taking, individual challenges and cooperative exploration.

To schedule a school tour, please call Lisa Piccione at (510) 428-2606, ext. 204.

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THREE 2-Week sessions Director, Doug Cole OUR 17TH SUMMER!!

♦ Location: Montclair School

♦ 9:00 - 4:00

♦ BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE

The focus of the camp will be the production of a full length play to be presented at the end of the session. Each day will also include time for creative drama, theater games and improv.

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Session 3 • 7/17-7/28 for kids entering Grades 3-6

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or [narniaph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:narniaph@sbcglobal.net)

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♦ 9:00 - 4:00

♦ BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE

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[www.auroraschool.org](http://www.auroraschool.org)

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and more.

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example A.

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Basketball Camp

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TEK with LEGOS Camp

And much More

Care available 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

All students start school excited about learning...at Aurora the excitement continues!

## Bus

FROM PAGE A1

However, Calvin Fong, an aide to Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, said the new plan will require a fare increase for riders using the new Line 10.

Line 10 will replace a section of Line 15. It will provide service between the MacArthur BART station, downtown Berkeley and the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, via Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, according to a memo written by Bruzzone and transportation planning manager Jon Twichell.

Riders using the service to downtown Oakland or Montclair will need to transfer at the MacArthur station to the new Line 8, which replaces the remainder of Line 15.

"People are saying 'You're forcing me to transfer,'" Fong said. "And since transfers are not free, you're increasing my fare."

The transfer will affect about 250 people versus the 2,000 people who would have been affected by the reduction to the 43 line, according to the memo.

Line 8 will originate in Montclair, follow the current 15 to MacArthur BART, then shift to the existing routing of the 43

along Telegraph, Shattuck and Solano avenues, according to the memo. The line would terminate at UC Village.

The changes are part of an \$18 million effort by AC Transit to implement a rapid bus plan in late summer. Recent bridge toll hikes approved by voters will fund the \$3 million annually needed to run it.

Under the plan, buses would run every 12 minutes from the BayFair BART station in San Leandro, up through downtown Oakland and Berkeley via International Boulevard and Telegraph Avenue and onto the northwest side of UC Berkeley.

Fewer stops and bus driver control over traffic signals would reduce the trip time.

The AC Transit board will consider approving the plan Wednesday at its general offices, 1600 Franklin St. in Oakland.

AC Transit is also working on a 2009 Bus Rapid Transit service that would create dedicated bus lanes and new bus stations intended to mimic San Francisco's trolley service. That service is controversial among Telegraph Avenue business owners because it may require closing the street off to cars.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail [alopez1@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez1@cctimes.com).

## Exam

FROM PAGE A1

Representatives from the state Department of Education have called the plan illegal and said the district could lose funding or face a state lawsuit. In the past week, State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell and County Superintendent Joseph Ovick sent admonishing letters to the district and board.

On Monday, district lawyer Lou Lozano told the school board that giving the diplomas could also result in a state takeover or student-led lawsuits if the state declared all West Contra Costa diplomas invalid.

"I do not believe it is up to us to take this risky stand," said school board member Karen Leon Fenton.

Brown said that he believes the district would be upholding the state Constitution and protecting students from being unfairly kept from higher-paying jobs that come with a high school diploma. He brought a legal opinion from attorney Steven Phillips of San Francisco in support of his arguments.

"We're not breaking the law," Brown said. "We're upholding



GREGORY URQUAGA/TIMES

STUDENTS listen as Dave Brown's measure is voted down by the other members of the West Contra Costa Unified School District board Monday in Richmond. The board voted against giving diplomas to students who had not passed the high school exit exam.

the law."

The Legislature approved the exit exam in 1999 to give meaning to the high school diploma, at the time given out based on requirements set by individual districts. The untimed exam measures 10th grade English and middle school math.

As of November, 89 percent of high school seniors had passed statewide. However, 48,000 students statewide failed to pass both parts of the exam and could be denied diplomas

on that basis.

In West Contra Costa, about 500 of 1,984 seniors have failed the test. Of those, 160 earned enough credits to graduate, according to district data.

More than 60 come from Richmond High School, from where students marched to the school board meeting holding signs that read, "Don't Trash Our Futures!" and "Don't Hold Our Diplomas Hostage."

After the vote, many students, including Richmond High

senior Iris Padilla, gasped and cried.

Earlier in the evening, a 16-year-old had led a protest at the Lovonya Delaney School auditorium, holding a sign in hand, chattering and crying.

Now she dabbed her eyes.

"I feel extremely sad," Padilla said. "Today I missed and didn't get to do the work I put in."

After striking down the proposal, the board told low students that they could take the test to walk the June graduation.

Afterward, Brown was disappointed.

"I think it really is a sound thing to do, educationally and legally," he said.

Board members suggested joining a rally ready under way in front of the Richmond High School, where students are suing the school claiming the test is discriminatory.

The board is expected to take up the issue next week.

Shirley Dang covers education. Reach her at 510-2798 or [sdang@cctimes.com](mailto:sdang@cctimes.com).

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS



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The Renaissance School was founded twelve years ago in celebration of the human spirit. The school is committed to providing an education that goes beyond what is expected. Inspired and grounded in the pedagogical principles of two of the 20th Century's most prominent educators, Dr. Maria Montessori and Zoltán Kodály,

The Renaissance School seeks to inspire a passion for excellence and nurture curiosity, creativity, and imagination. The Kodály Music Program and a Studio Art program, along

with the study of the history and appreciation of both disciplines, are fully integrated into the curriculum. The students at The Renaissance School learn a second and a third language from native speakers in "immersion classrooms." The students thrive in a multicultural and multi-ethnic environment provided by the faculty who represent many countries from five continents. In order to continue the strong commitment to the students and their families, the school is expanding and opening a middle school.

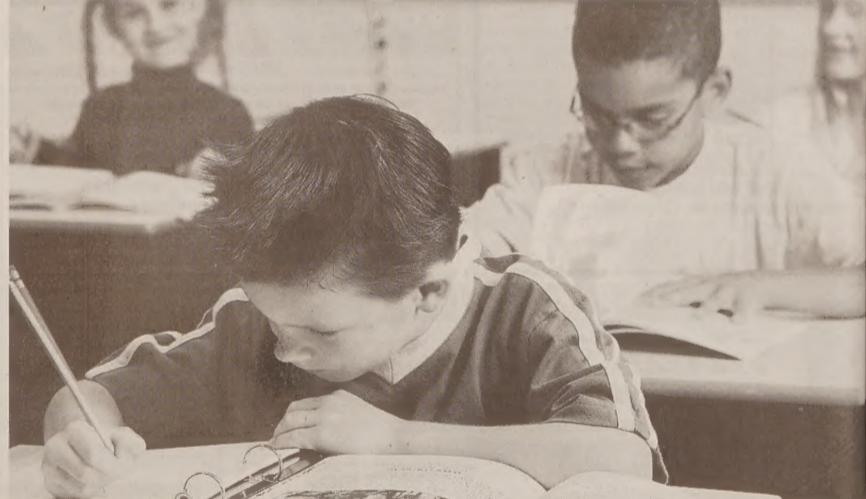
## WINDRUSH SCHOOL

### Engaging Minds, Empowering Learners, Opening Possibilities

Windrush's progressive curriculum focuses on the skills students will need to thrive in the fast-paced global society of the 21st century. Our emphasis on learning by doing engages students, teaching them to work together to solve real-world problems. Our dynamic, culturally diverse community emphasizes excellence without elitism. Windrush teachers honor the integrity of childhood by encouraging the range of talents and interests that

children bring to the classroom. Windrush students respect another and take pleasure in their accomplishments, becoming lifelong learners who have the academic skills and the emotional resilience to approach the future with optimism to embrace challenges and to take joy in creative solutions to intriguing questions.

Tours of Windrush are available by reservation. For more information, please call 510-7580 or visit our website, [www.windrush.org](http://www.windrush.org).



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## osenbaum

PAGE A1

I'm really excited about...  
use there's more than just  
sociological and psychological  
implications. There's Internet  
danger around the Internet. It's really  
helped in the discussion, answer real questions  
about maintaining safety, when their  
behaviors become dangerous, whether  
they talk about sexuality, drugs  
alcohol or peer influence.  
It's going to be a graduation  
ceremony for every ninth  
grader to take that course. ... I  
every freshman to be exposed  
to this information for a  
year. I think that's a huge

**"We realize block scheduling is a much more civil way of teaching. It's not unanimous by any means. Some of the foreign language teachers feel they need practice every day. PE teachers feel that kids need to exercise everyday."**

— Ron Rosenbaum,  
Albany High principal

The school district's drug alcohol task force was busy addressing those issues but dismissed recently. What happened?

I think there were two things. The energy level went down, because there was a lot of intense work going into it. The district and a lot of people working on it were starting to see the broader issues; it's a broad spectrum. So the drug and alcohol and health

around drugs and alcohol, fits into the bigger picture of the total health of the individual, resilience issues, what makes kids successful — successful as a human being.

A lot of this is things students have been asking for, rather than something we're imposing on them. We're not looking at them as 'Just say no, answer my questions.' (Students are asking): 'How do I know I'm safe, how do I know my friends are safe, and why do we make

them unsafe?' Wanting safer dances and having a policy that you can check students for intoxication on the way to dances. That's something students are stressing here. That's what they actually want.

The last dance (the winter ball) we had was incredibly successful. We breathalyzed students, and there wasn't one complaint. Nobody got sick, most of them had fun, lots of parents had fun.

**Q: What other issues has the school been addressing?**

**A:** For quite a while there's been a requirement for freshmen to take a class called earth space science, which is geology and space science. They're required but now that we're adding the health requirements, we're also making that course ... one of many electives. Students have asked, 'Well if earth space science is going to be an elective, why can't we elect to take biology or maybe chemistry if we're ready?'

There's been a lot of debate as to whether or not earth space is a valuable course. I'm an science teacher, so I think all science courses are valuable. But there's been questions as to ... why don't we allow our freshmen a choice in science?

(Parents say) 'biology meets a UC Berkeley science require-

ment, where earth-space science doesn't. My child is more interested in biology than earth space science; why can't they take it as freshmen? Is there a rational behind that?' Some people say yes, some people say no.

**Q: How is the school handling its growing student population?**

**A:** We have 1,200 students this year, and we anticipate 40 to 50 more next year, so the stairs will be slightly more crowded. We're reaching capacity in classroom use. A lot of our teaching staff have to share classrooms now, and that's going to increase. We don't have enough science labs; we just don't have enough classrooms for every teacher to have their own classroom now.

Meanwhile, I will do my best to make sure there's a class for every kid in every period. It's getting harder and harder.

**Q: Classes were arranged into 'blocks' this year where some classes meet some days but not others. How is that working?**

**A:** It's based on the belief that more time in one class allows more in-depth work. It allows teachers to meet fewer students per day, so there's less student contact and more face time per student. And it would allow students to prepare for less classes each day.

The model we have here is that we meet all seven classes on Mondays but on Tuesdays and Thursdays only even classes meet. (Classes meet for 95 minutes instead of the usual 55).

We're committed to giving it a few years. But we want to decide whether we need to fiddle with it at all. One thing teachers didn't expect is the Mondays where they meet in the kind of schedule they used to in the past — all of sudden now they find Mondays very cramped, there's not enough time.

Almost every department says that you know what, Mondays, the way we always taught, is a pain. Now we realize block scheduling is a much more civil way of teaching. It's not unanimous by any means. Some of the foreign language teachers feel they need practice every day. PE teachers feel that kids need to exercise everyday.

We're going to try to figure out all this stuff. We will actually meet with parents and students to talk about this, get some parent and student feedback.

**Q: You had an interesting experience at Oakland Tech High School, where you were asked to make a dent in the truancy problem there.**

**A:** At Oakland Tech, which had a reputation of being a tougher school than it is, right

before I came had a big truancy program with kids who were herded into class, being late to class, and breaking out the windows and hurting people.

Every time something went wrong at the school, it became more and more repressive. That's the intuitive thing to do. Kids are acting up, let's lock them out of class, which is what happened. Teachers would lock their doors after five minutes and not let kids in. They would lock the bathrooms.

When I got hired, the first meeting I went to before I got hired was a violence-prevention committee that the district had taken out of the site administration's hands. When I heard that, it was ... I'll take this job and you can have site decision making — I'm totally into that — but ... every bathroom is open, clean, and no teacher will lock a student out for any reason.

The majority of kids want to go to school, they want to learn, they don't want to feel intimidated walking around, they want us to be friendly to them. They want to love their school. They spend all their waking hours here. I've done lot of that work here (in Albany). It's just not as intense, because our kids are not as needy in Albany as in Oakland.

# SCHOOLS And PROGRAMS

## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Established in 1883, Zion Lutheran School continues to provide a fully accredited academic curriculum within a Christian community for students in grades K-8. We pride a stellar, yet quite affordable, academic program as well as various recreational arts. Our campus is safely located within the Oakland/Piedmont Hills. Students excel in our small classes. Our devoted teachers ensure the success of each student. We see to it that each student receives the individual attention that he/she deserves, along with high self-esteem and academic excellence. Beginning in a full-dayergarten, Zion students benefit from a full-time P.E. program, interscholastic sports, and an excellent music program. We encourage creativity in art, crafts and drama

productions. We endorse a true appreciation for diversity, with multicultural fairs and instruction in foreign language. Science fairs and field trips enrich the students' understanding of lessons taught within the classroom.

Zion Lutheran School is devoted, not just to the student, but to the family. We provide before- and after-school child care and encourage family involvement in the school. Our active Parent Forum works with our administration and teachers, developing strong relationships and trust.

We work with each prospective family individually, offering tours of the school based on personal availability. Please call for more information and to arrange for a tour at (510) 530-7909.



## TEHIYAH DAY SCHOOL

Tehiyah Day School is a Jewish community day school which instills the joy of learning through active intellectual inquiry and the practice of Jewish values and by honoring diversity. Tehiyah adheres to the principle of pluralism in both Jewish and American living and respects the customs and traditions of all students.

The dynamic general and Judaic curricula, school-wide celebrations, classroom activities, and informal interactions stimulate growth and curiosity and are designed to foster a meaningful aesthetic and spiritual experience.

Tehiyah's high academic standards are further enriched by vibrant visual and performing arts, athletics, technology, and after-school programs. The school often becomes a focus for community life and a source of enduring friendships.

Tehiyah aspires to nurture the unique potential of every student so that each may continue to pursue lifelong learning.

You are invited to tour our beautiful campus at any time. To schedule a tour or to learn more, contact Amy Friedman at (510) 233-3013 ext. 239.



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## ARCHWAY SCHOOL

With our recent expansion and fall opening of our 5th through 8th Grade Upper School campus in Berkeley as well as the improvements to our K-4th Grade Lower School campus in Oakland, this has been an exciting year for Archway School.

Archway School has a long and proud tradition of providing a rich hands-on curriculum to its students in kindergarten through grade 8. Our wonderfully diverse teaching staff and beautiful campuses provide students a unique environment in which to develop academic and personal excellence. At Archway we are committed to engaging children's natural curiosity, engaging children in their own learning, respecting individual progress, valuing social development and service to the

community, and maintaining diversity in our classrooms, curriculum, and community. We are very pleased to announce our expansion and opening of our Berkeley upper school campus and shuttle service from Oakland. Features of our new site include a gymnasium, multimedia lab, science lab, and proximity to Berkeley's "gourmet ghetto."

For information about tours please call 510-547-4747 (Oakland) or 510-849-4747 (Berkeley).

We are currently accepting applications for grades K-8 for the 2006-07 school year. Visit us online at [www.archwayschool.org](http://www.archwayschool.org). Archway School is a program of Woods Edge, Inc., a nonprofit organization established in 1973.



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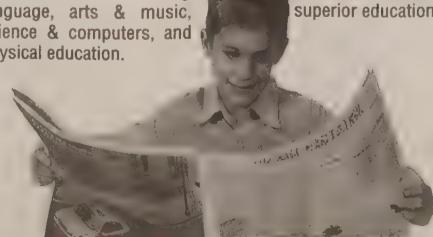
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## SAKLAN VALLEY SCHOOL

Small class size makes a big difference in the quality of your child's education. Research has demonstrated that classes of 15 or below have a dramatic positive impact on academic achievement, social development and emotional well-being when compared to classrooms of 20 or above. Saklan Valley School features a top-notch academic preparation in classes that average 12 and are capped at 16. Our program also provides excellent enriching education in foreign language, arts & music, science & computers, and physical education.

Saklan educates children from all over the East Bay beginning in Preschool (age 3) and running through to 8th Grade. We are located on a lovely small campus under redwood trees in beautiful Moraga Valley, and we offer shuttle transportation from Alamo, Lafayette and Orinda.

For a personal tour of the campus, call us at 925.376.7900 or visit our web site at [www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org). Consider investing in educational excellence for your child by choosing Saklan's superior education.



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## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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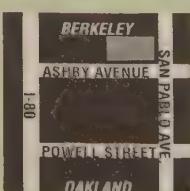
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# Real Estate

HOMES · RENTALS · COMMERCIAL · MORTGAGES

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmont



DENNIS EVANOSKY

UP PERKIN'S Dawn Road creation offers four levels of quality appointments and views to match.

## Crafted Modernism in the Oakland hills

BY DENNIS EVANOSKY

SECTION EDITOR

Designer Philip Perkins crafted our-plus-bedroom, five-plus-bath home at 7 Dawn Road in the hills to capture the views of nearby hills and the distant Francisco Bay. His success is at the moment you walk on the front door.

6,300 square-foot home is in the exclusive Dawn Estate and encloses you in the quiet of your own acre of land. Details and design of Perkins' well-crafted Modernist gem is

The finishes, fixtures and custom cabinetry reflect a rich palette of colors drawn from nature.

of the highest quality. The finishes, fixtures and custom cabinetry reflect his use of a rich palette of colors drawn from nature.

Fireplaces add warmth to the master bedroom, the guesthouse, the family room and the living room. Every major room is prewired for speakers and NetStream. A TCIP-based household system, "infinitely"

expandable, speakers, stereo, intercom, command touch screens bring you into the 21st century.

There is a family room with a retractable TV platform, a home theater, a private library/office and a game room with a wet bar. A luxurious master suite and a gourmet chef's kitchen with the highest quality appliances and stacked glass is-

## Real Estate Spotlight:

### Magnificent Mediterranean



This contemporary Mediterranean at 13402 Campus Drive sits high in the hills amid grand, custom homes in Ridgemont, one of Oakland's more desirable neighborhoods. It is graced by majestic cypress trees and beautifully landscaped grounds which are enclosed by a custom wrought-iron fence and gate. Upon entering, step down from the gleaming foyer into the centerpiece of the home, a dramatic, approximately thirty-foot high, octagonal living room/atrium which is accented with archways. It has five bedrooms and five baths, which include a sumptuous master suite. The chef's kitchen has granite slab counters, a cooking island and a Sub-Zero refrigerator. Custom oak and cherry cabinetry and European-inspired lighting fixtures are used throughout. There are many other custom features and finishes. Other features include a home office, an indoor hot tub, two fireplaces, skylights and a family room with an entertainment center. To enhance outdoor living and entertaining there is a spacious rear deck and a level yard and patio. This home will enchant you.

**Price:** \$1,975,000 **Open:** April 23 and April 30 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Listing Agent:** Nancy Dickey, Coldwell Banker, 510-339-4716. Photos at [www.nancydickey.com](http://www.nancydickey.com)

land help set the home apart.

Decks, patios and a bocce court complement the home's exterior. The home offers two, two-car garages — one attached to the guest quarters.

Photocell-activated entry lights show the way as you approach the front door with its amber and fluted

glass. Just inside is a wine bar with a corking area and wine display, a stone sink and wine racks.

**Main Level:** The family room has a sliding TV cabinet above the ceramic gas log fireplace with its forest green quartzite stone detailing. From here you'll enjoy bay views and access to the deck. The

home's patio-like dining room has a built-in Brazilian rift-sawn mahogany sideboard with fluted glass panels. The living room has a wood-burning fireplace with Luxor Gold and San Mateo split-face stone detailing. The powder room

See HOME, Page B2

## ONT CLAIR



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## OPEN HOMES



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**WOODS** \$515,000  
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new chef quality stainless steel appli-  
Hardwood floors - Nic view! Desir-  
able building #260 OPEN SUN 2-5  
Brennan 339.8400-339.4557



**WILL PARK** \$499,999  
**SAN CARLOS AVENUE**  
4bd/1.5ba Bungalow. Orig archi-  
tecture in Maxwell Park w/ FDR,  
fireplace, spacious kitch & break-  
fast, large backyard. Sorry, not Open.  
Monica Austin 339.4000-899.6395



**WEST GRAND AVE #18** \$429,000  
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www.MontclairRealEstate.com



## House

FROM PAGE B1

on the main level boasts a Verona sink by Stone Forest and a square faucet by Dornbracht for Villeroy & Boch.

A stacked glass island with a forest green quartzite stone counter sets off the gourmet kitchen with its built-in espresso maker and three sinks: one for clean up, a prep sink in the stacked glass island — both by Blanco — and a Kohler sink in the buffet area. The island hood is manufactured by Zephyr. The perimeter counters are Saint Martin limestone. Perkins set a mirrored backsplash behind the trough sink to reflect the view back to the breakfast nook with its built-in cafe benches and table.

**Mezzanine:** The mezzanine has its own microwave oven, a dish-

washer, an icemaker, a refrigerator and a forest green stone counter. Here you'll find a home theater with a sheer theater curtain, with a screen projector, 7.2 surround sound, two-level seating, a Net-Stream panel, audio automation system and sub woofers — all can be remotely controlled.

**Upper level:** The room on the home's upper level with its built-in table or desk can be used as a library, an office or a place to simply get away from it all. The upper level also has a guest room with a bath. The bath has limestone with glass tile accents, a Ladena sink by Kohler, a Corten Steel ceramic tile floor and Yellow Dream antiqued limestone shower surrounds. The entire upper level could also be used as an au pair suite.

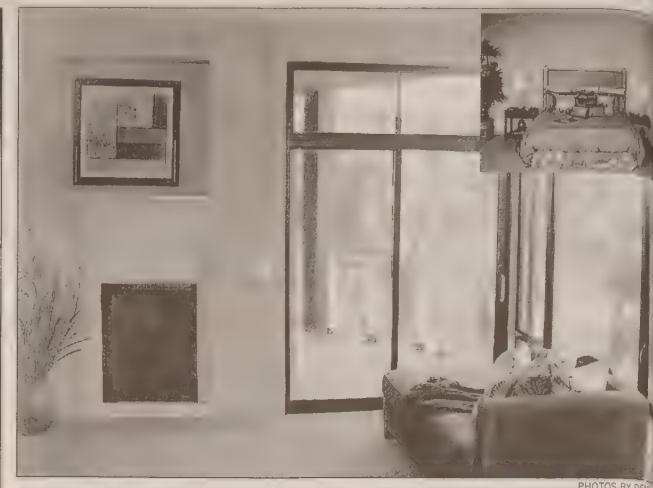
**Bedroom level:** The master suite's accoutrements include two dressing rooms, each with a built-in

bureau, a gas fireplace with Luxor Gold and limestone detailing, a sitting area with a panoramic bay view and a sliding door to the deck. The adjoining master bath features a Boffi tub, a Dornbracht RainSky water sculpture, a pair of Kohler shower heads with four Kohler body sprays — each separately controlled —, a sliding door leads from from shower to deck.

This level also has a master bedroom and two standard bedrooms.

Perkins has designed the home so that each bedroom has bay views.

**Game level:** The game room has a sink, a refrigerator, an ice-maker and a microwave, a Hans Grohe Axor kitchen faucet complements the Saint Martin limestone counter here. There is also a game room bath, where you'll find you can bathe with a Hans Grohe shower column. A mosaic stone detail, a Lacava sink by Elkay and a



A STACKED GLASS ISLAND with a forest green quartzite stone counter sets off the gourmet at 7 Dawn Street, left. The master suite has a gas fireplace with Luxor Gold and limestone detailing area with a panoramic bay view and a sliding door to the deck, above.

PHOTOS BY DEB

## VITAL STATISTICS

**What:** A Philip Perkins-designed Crafted Modernist home at 7 Dawn Street in the Oakland hills

**Size:** A 6,300-square-foot home on a one-acre lot

**Bedrooms:** Four

**Bathrooms:** Five full; one partial

**Features:** High-tech amenities accent this home's four levels of quality appointments that include a gourmet kitchen, a wine bar, an office, a media room and a game room and bocce court. The kitchen room features a built-in rift-sawn mahogany sideboard with fluted glass panels. The master bedroom has a gas fireplace and a sitting area with a panoramic view. There is also a guesthouse with Butler's

hardwood floors and a separate entrance.

**Price:** \$4,250,000 **Open House:** 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 23 or by appointment

**Virtual Tour:** [www.7dawn.com](http://www.7dawn.com)

**Listing agents:** Nancy Platford, Prudential California Realty, 510-845-0211 or Holly Rose 510-981-3057, Coldwell Banker.

HansGrohe wall mounted lav faucet

all complement this level.

**Guest house:** The guest house has a microwave, a dishwasher, a refrigerator, a Saint Martin limestone counter and Burmese Teak hardwood floors throughout. A Ladena sink by Kohler, a Corten Steel ce-

ramic tile floor and Yellow Dream antiqued limestone shower-surrounds complement the guesthouse bath. The ceramic log gas fireplace has Luxor Gold limestone detailing. There is a small exterior deck with stairs to street. The guest house has bay views and views of

downtown Oakland including of lights around Lake

The home has two full two-car garages with partially vaulted ceilings and Burmese Teak doors.

—Sincere thanks to Linda

ford for her help with this

## Make a difference: Invest in your community

Every year we Americans face the ritual of filing tax returns. While the process is unavoidable, investors frequently look for effective ways to lessen the impact of taxes on the overall returns of their portfolios. More investors — particularly those in higher tax brackets — are finding that municipal bonds can help reduce their tax burden, and at the same time add stability and diversification to their portfolios.

Issued by state and local governments, municipal bonds are commonly used to raise money for community projects and improvements. These include a broad range of developments, such as new highways, improved sewer systems, or even new school buildings. As with other bonds, by purchasing a municipal bond, you are really making a loan to the issuing municipality. That state or local government, in turn, promises to pay you a given rate of interest while you hold the bond and return your principal at maturity.

One of the most attractive features of municipal bonds is their freedom from certain taxes. The bonds typically pay interest every six months and, unlike other investments, the interest you earn is not subject to federal taxes. In addition, this tax exemption can extend to state and local taxes if you reside in the state or community where the bonds were issued. Keep in mind that certain types of municipal bonds may be subject to state or local taxes, or the alternative minimum tax, so it is important to know exactly how specific issues will be treated before making a purchase.

Whether or not a municipal bond is subject to state or local taxes, its freedom from federal taxes, its freedom from federal taxes on its earned interest can signifi-

cantly increase the after-tax return of your portfolio. Investing in municipal bonds can allow you to diminish your overall tax burden by decreasing the amount of your income subject to taxes. Less money spent on taxes means more money to spend on other pursuits. Or, if you so choose, there will be more money available for reinvesting or saving.

While the tax advantages of municipal bonds may be appealing, several other qualities can make them an important addition to an investor's portfolio. For one thing, you can enjoy interest payments every six months. In addition, though it does not eliminate the credit risk of bonds, many are backed by insurance, thereby increasing the security of your investment. The credit enhancement does not remove market risk of the bonds, and there is no assurance as to the insurer's ability to meet its commitments. Keep in mind bonds may be worth more or less than their original cost upon redemption or upon sale prior to redemption.

Bonds can be bought and sold in the open market, so you do have the opportunity to liquidate your bond before it matures. Investors should keep in mind that as interest rates rise, existing bond prices of already outstanding fixed income securities tend to fall. Long-term bonds are generally more exposed to interest rate risk than short-term bonds. Depending on current interest rates, the price you receive may be more or less than your original investment, but you do have the option to sell should you need to.

Finally, almost every state and thousands of municipalities issue bonds each year, so you have a wide variety to choose from. With

One of the most attractive features of municipal bonds is their freedom from certain taxes. The bonds typically pay interest every six months and, unlike other investments, the interest you earn is not subject to federal taxes.

maturities ranging anywhere from one to 30 years, you can plan for current or future income. And the variety of available bonds lets you easily diversify your municipal bond holdings.

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer, but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult *Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards* on [agedwards.com](http://agedwards.com).

**Leila Gough** is an Associate Vice President with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.



LEILA GOUGH

Money Matters

## When it comes to home inspection once may not be enough

BY SUZETTE HACKNEY

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Real estate myth No. 33: You only need to have a house inspected before you purchase it.

While I've never given readers a list of real estate myths (it was just my attempt at cleverness), I do think it's important to debunk the idea that your home needs only one inspection.

An inspection can be helpful for those buying, selling or simply maintaining a home. But guess what? Every homeowner falls into one of those categories.

There are already positive statistics showing that home owners of the future understand the importance of a home inspection.

According to the Home-ownership Alliance, an organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting home ownership opportunities, 10 million Americans will enter the housing market by 2013.

Of those, an estimated 77 percent understand the benefits of a home inspector and will work with one, according to a 2004 study by the alliance. But those of us who already own a home

may have a difficult time determining if an inspection is necessary. Luckily, the American Society of Home Inspectors offers a checklist of other times or situations when a home should be inspected. So before making a decision, ask yourself these questions:

■ Was the home inspected when purchased? If not, an inspection is warranted regardless of how long you've been in the home, even if it was new construction.

■ Have you been in the home at least three to five years? If the answer is yes, a home inspection is a good idea since homes and home systems age and deteriorate even with proper ongoing maintenance.

■ Are you planning to do any major remodeling or renovation? Whether it's a do-it-yourself project or a project with a contractor, now is a good time to determine whether there are problem areas requiring attention that may have been overlooked. Certain problems, if not discovered, could complicate, delay or derail the renovation.

■ Have you recently undergone

a major remodel or renovation? It never hurts to have an objective opinion about the work that has been done to ensure there are no remaining issues.

■ Are you an older home planning to remain in your home as you age? Elderly homeowners may have more difficult dressing ongoing maintenance concerns or inspecting hard-to-reach areas. A professional home inspector can point out maintenance or safety issues that may need to be addressed when helping to specific problems.

■ Are you a first-time home buyer who doesn't know the first about maintaining your home? A professional home inspector can be an invaluable education for the new home owner, especially if one was not present during the purchasing process.

■ Do you have small children in the home? New parents have special concerns about safety in the home, and a home inspector can help point out problems, such as hard-to-mold, that could cause harm to a growing family.

## Seminar highlights assistance programs for nurses

RE/MAX IN MOTION

In the tradition of Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale, our modern-day nurses dedicate their lives to our communities. But the future of quality health care is in jeopardy, due to a nursing shortage. Forecasts predict our nurse population will continue to decrease, if solutions are not found. A primary problem is many of these professionals cannot afford to buy a home in the cities where they offer care. With salaries in a low to moderate range, they question if homeownership is

an attainable goal. A free

"First Homes for Nurses" is set for Saturday, April 22, at the RE/MAX Conference Center. Realtor Jonathan Farnsworth of RE/MAX in Motion presents a class, along with expert speakers. You must pre-register. Seating is limited. Attendees will receive special discounts and a free credit evaluation. To learn more, call 888-681-7777 or visit [www.rxhome.com](http://www.rxhome.com).

## Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on page D5.

### open sunday

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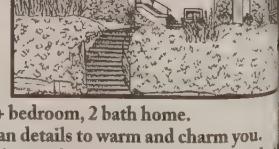


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## Water, water everywhere

Number 510 in a series of true experiences in real estate

Will it ever stop raining? We've had people lined up for weeks to see our listings who either can't do their jobs or are going ahead and getting wet while they work. Gardeners raked paths, weeded and trimmed shrubs in the rain. They used a power washer to wash away moss on wooden decks and concrete as it rained. Window washers waited for a break in the weather, steadied their ladders well and washed away until it started raining again.

My tenant reported a different sort of water problem, nothing to do with the weather. Actually, he wasn't sure what was causing the stain that was growing in size on his living room floor, but it did turn out to be water. When the spot was first noticed, it was only a couple of inches in diameter; the tenant emailed me a photo. But over the next week or so before I could get someone there to check it out, it doubled in size.

A few days ago, a painter was waiting for a break in the weather to touch up exterior paint. And a small patch of sod is going to be laid — if it ever stops raining — in a back garden. Anet and I were in Napa a few weeks ago visiting my cousins in their family ranch. The river was through it. And this year, the river rose up and ran over a vineyard knocking to the ground a few grapevine supports and the plants too. The family had been hoping for a good year to upright and secure the plants but unlike the rest of us, to predict the weather, they'd always chosen a day.

What fantastic luck that on the appointed day, the sun was out, the sky was blue, the softly rolling hills that can be seen beyond the ranch were green. We slogged through heavy, and in places, deep mud following the sounds of voices until we came to a gloriously beautiful scene. About a dozen people were standing

in a vineyard side by side in a long line, one person for each plant.

On a shout, everyone lifted his vine upright and supports were then pulled taut. The colors, the sight of them was very beautiful. Sky and hills, yellow mustard, green tractor, shirts and jackets and boots every-color.

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in a vineyard side by side in a long line, one person for each plant.



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Downstairs in my house, however, there is a lot of water on the concrete floor of the garage. Water stands still in a 10-foot long, fairly skinny patch. It freaks me out. There is probably a supply of water under the raised wooden floor of the adjacent finished room. I can't see under this floor or do anything about the water except to sweep it out the door.

I do this a couple of times a day wondering all the while why I try. Within a couple of hours it is wet exactly as before. And slimy green moss marks the driveway where I've whisked the water. Finding water in the basement was a bad surprise. A dozen years ago when I last found water there after it had rained, I had down spouts changed and an underground drain put in to carry water to the street. These worked perfectly until now.

This week we held open for the first time a wonderful house, a house blessedly dry in all the right places. The setting is full of nature and has of course received a recent, thorough soaking. Although it had rained the day before and also rained the day after that good morning was bright and dry. The trees surrounding the house glistened, the creek that runs across the property made lovely, noisy water-rushing sounds.

We laid out new dry coir door mats at the doorways and opened windows and doors. We set out trays of sandwiches and grilled veggies and big fat cookies for our visitors. We had a fine time showing off the house and greeting friends on such a fine day.

**Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoft are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at [www.tarpoftandtalbert.com](http://www.tarpoftandtalbert.com).**

## Above and beyond

■ Lois Harris serves clients, community, industry

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY

Realtor Lois Harris is proud of the sterling service she provides her clients. It has its rewards, Harris says. "The greater part of my business is from former clients. I enjoy the relationships I have developed with them by strengthening their financial base through property ownership."

Harris, an agent at Prudential California Realty's Grand Lake office in Oakland, also serves the real estate industry. While 2005 Oakland Association of Realtors president, she carried the good news of Oakland to the California and the National associations of Realtors. Now, as OAR ex-officio, she chairs the as-

sociation's fund-raising effort that benefit the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides a college education to disadvantaged youngsters.

"Working to raise money for the students, I — and all the volunteers — feel that the foundation impacts the lives of these young people and our community in such a positive way, how can you not commit to it?"

Harris has worked as a director for the California Association of Realtors, and has sat for two years on the state's nominating committee. She currently serves as co-chair of the association's Presidents' Leadership Forum.

"The time commitment can be challenging," Harris said. "But when you consider that your voice or your vote may contribute to improved



circumstances and conditions for the industry and our community, it makes it all worthwhile."

"We are proud to have Lois as a member of the Grand Lake team," broker-manager Amberson "Mac" McCulloch said. "You can always count on her to give her very best."

## Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries

### FOR THE PUBLIC

#### Pardee Home

Here's an idea for a one day outing with the kids during Easter vacation. Check this out for a fun and historical visit. At the corner of 11th and Castro streets, in Oakland stands the beautifully preserved Pardee Home Museum. The father of a California governor built the Gold Rush-era home. View the Pardee family gardens and collections of artistic objects from all over the world. Enjoy a guided tour Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. For tour times check the Web site, [www.pardeehome.org](http://www.pardeehome.org).

#### Open House

It's a mega Open House! All types of homes will be shown at the Coldwell Banker National Open House Month. Local CB agents expect to hold hundreds of homes open in the Bay Area in the month of April. "Open Houses work well because they create a 'buzz' and draw prospective buyers to a home on the market," said Avram Gold-

man, Coldwell Banker president and CEO. Prospective homebuyers can visit [www.CaliforniaMoves.com](http://www.CaliforniaMoves.com). **Free Classes**

**Seniors.** If you are a Senior Citizen and need additional income consider a reverse mortgage. The Reverse Mortgage Seminar will help you decide if this option is right for you. The free class is at Bayridge Realty & Financial, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 29. The presenter is reverse mortgage specialist Derry Hampton. The event is hosted by real estate broker Steve Zager. Make your reservation by calling 510-524-3333 ext. 301.

**Earthquake.** Is your home safe? Attend a free seminar on Earthquake Retrofitting & Home Safety, 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, at the North Berkeley Senior Center. Hear guest speaker Howard Cook, FEMA earthquake damage inspector. The event is sponsored by Bay Area Retrofit and Our Land Realty & Funding. Call 510-883-1321 ext. 113.

**Nightings.** Nurses are there for our communities when needed. Frequently they cannot afford to buy a home. A seminar, "First Homes For Nurses" is 1 p.m., Saturday, April 22. Special programs are offered to help for down payment and closing cost assistance. Call the Hotline 888-681-7771 ext. 707.

**Series.** "Your Home Team Advantage" (a group of professionals from home mortgage, insurance, title and real estate are teaming up to offer a series of homebuying seminars. The presenters are from Wells Fargo, Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors and Placer Title Company. The seminars will cover First-time, Next and Investment buying. Each attendee receives a free credit report and gift. Ask about the date for the next class by calling 510-865-4192 ext. 300.

#### Home Help

Homeownership help is out

See REID, Page B5

## How to handle 'the year of the buyer'

BY JANIS MARA

INMAN NEWS

What some have described as "the year of the buyer," as the real market continues to slow, real brokers and agents are using tactics to meet the challenge. I adjusted my marketing plan, my sellers in the eye and say, "what. The "real" is back in estate," said Vince Malta, president of the California Association of Realtors.

Being tough with sellers and in realistic, lower prices is one part of the puzzle, according to Gil Souza, president of the East Association of Realtors.

For someone to survive in this place they need to go back

to the basics," said Souza. "Stay in touch with your clients via your database, tell people what you do for a living so they understand the value of the services we provide."

The "back to basics" theme was echoed by Harley E. Rouda Jr., CEO and managing partner of national franchisor Real Living, Inc., one of the largest U.S. residential real estate firms.

"There has been a distinct shift from a seller's market to at best a balanced market alternatively weighted to a buyer's market," Rouda said. "Because of that we are encouraging our agents to go back to the basics in several areas: prospecting, presentations, marketing the listing and negotiating."

In the prospecting area, Rouda

said, "we have a robust Internet technology platform" that automates the process.

"If they've (agents) picked up prospects from open houses, calls on signs, calls on ads, they can identify those prospects as cold leads or hot leads or ultimately a client and input that data."

Then, the system will contact the potential clients with the appropriate type of message and frequency. For example, an e-mail every three months a cold lead with a few listings, as opposed to contacting the prospect more often, Rouda said.

"The second thing is presentations. In a seller's market, often

See BUYER, Page B4

## The Weekly Sales can be found in the Auto Section on page D5.

**I'M WORTH A CLOSER LOOK!**

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## Successfully complete your next real estate transaction

Buying and/or selling a home in the Bay Area ranks high on one of life's most stressful events. No matter how many homes you have purchased or sold, the process is different each time. In short, it doesn't get any easier no matter how much money, time or experience you have. If you are about to purchase or sell a home, the following suggestions will hopefully make the process more efficient, smooth and profitable for you.

■ Find an agent you can trust. Integrity, sincerity, reliability and honesty are crucial characteristics. How do you find such a person? A good starting point is to ask the advice of family and friends. Check out local real estate publications and do research on every agent you are considering before narrowing your choice to three or four. Once your list is whittled down, set up an interview with each agent. Look for Realtors; these real estate professionals belong to local and state associations and agree to follow a code of ethics.

You might be thinking, "But, I already have an agent I want to work with." I suggest you still interview other agents. What you will gain from the process are other insights and ideas that may not have been presented to you. Often, your agent of choice will unwittingly show a lack of skill or knowledge in a particular area that is of concern to you.

■ Before beginning your search for your next home, provide a list of

"must haves," "would-be-nice" and "optional" preferences to your agent. Even top-producing agents are not mind readers. Clarify your wants and needs. A good agent will match you with the right home providing you have created a solid foundation of good communication. However, if every home is a mis-match or if you feel a lack of "connection" between you and your agent let him/her go and find another.

■ Prices and comparisons don't tell the whole story. Learn what you can about areas by spending time with your agent driving around the neighborhoods and keep asking questions. Go back to the areas you are interested in on your own, at different times of the day, especially if you have children. Pay close attention to what you see and hear.

■ Pricing. If you are planning on selling a home, the most important aspect is pricing it right. The most common error made by sellers is to pick an agent because he/she suggested the highest price. These same agents often come back within a few weeks suggesting a price reduction. Today's buyers are savvier than ever. Buyers carefully research prices and neighborhoods well before they write their first offer. The closer the price is to the point where buyers see value, the more buyers you will have competing for the purchase.

■ Before you sign anything, ask your agent who you will be dealing with throughout the transaction. Some agents work with a team;

other agents work by themselves. If you prefer working directly with your agent, make sure your agent knows that ahead of time.

Ask the agent if he/she offers a "Satisfaction Guarantee." A good agent will offer, in writing, an opportunity to be released from the contract if you don't feel you are getting the service you deserve. I've heard numerous complaints of clients not only unhappy with the lack of effort from their agent, but also, complete frustration over the fact that their agent refuses to release them from their contract. If your prospective agent offers such a guarantee, have them put it in writing. If they refuse, move on to another agent who will. Remember, you can contact your agent's broker or manager if you aren't happy with the process.

Buying and/or selling a home is a very complex transaction. One wrong move can literally cost you thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. The top stories in the news regarding real estate usually revolve around what went wrong. By carefully choosing an agent you can trust, and doing your homework, hopefully we won't be reading about you and your transaction.

Steve Kendall is a Realtor with Security Pacific Real Estate in Richmond. You can reach him at 510-662-8518 or through his website at [www.skendall.com](http://www.skendall.com).



STEVE KENDALL  
Guest Columnist

## Buyer

FROM PAGE B3

agents go in knowing they're going to get the listing. But in a highly competitive market, it's imperative the agent go in with the best foot forward," Rouda said. To that end, he said, the company's technology includes a point-and-click technology through which agents can create presentations customized to individual properties.

As for marketing and servicing listings, Rouda said all firms and agents do a good job in this area, but it's key to make sure the client knows this.

"We have created an automated system to communicate marketing efforts directly to the sellers," Rouda said. E-mail messages direct sellers to customized MyRealLiving sites created for the seller, where

they can see where the property has been advertised, see what the feedback is, what properties are in competition with theirs, price reductions, expirations, and what has sold.

In some highly competitive markets, in the past few years, such tracking technology would have been unnecessary, because houses listed and sold in just days, sometimes hours, Rouda said.

"But now, when properties stay on the market longer, it's helpful," the CEO said.

The last step, Rouda said, is making sure agents have the education in negotiation and skill development to allow them to succeed in a changing market. His company has partnered with Keith Ferrazzi, CEO of Ferrazzi Greenlight, a sales and marketing consulting firm, to educate its agents in this area.

Real Living isn't the only bro-

kerage educating its agents about the changing market.

"We recognized last fall that the market was more balanced, so we developed some in-branch training particularly for new agents to help bring them up to speed on what new market conditions are like," said Sherry Chris, chief operating officer of Prudential California, Nevada and Texas Realty.

Sherry Chris, Prudential California, Nevada, Texas

"One of the things we taught them was to keep in mind that listings are going to last on the market longer," Chris said. "In a brisk market where listings were lasting only a matter of hours, they now could be 13, 16, 90 days, and they have to be marketed differently."

Marketing a listing over an extended amount of time involves networking with different agents, putting many photos of the listing

## A second home may be more an indulgence than wise investment

BY JEFF BROWN  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

One of my fantasies is to have a second home near a Vermont ski resort. As impractical as this is, I've watched the for-sale listings on Realtor.com and seen some appealing properties languish for months.

And a buddy of mine complains that he couldn't possibly sell his Vermont home for as much as he paid five or six years ago. It seems like the real estate market has cooled — not just in Vermont but also in many parts of the country. Maybe it's turning into a buyers' market.

So this is a good time to shop for that second home you've wanted? Perhaps — but only if you expect to keep the second home for many years and view it as an indulgence rather than an investment. The days of flipping second homes for quick profits appear to be over, for now at least.

While the median home price was 11.6 percent higher in January than a year earlier, the National Association of Realtors reported Tuesday that sales of existing homes fell 2.8 percent from December to January, the fifth straight month of falling sales. January sales were 5.2 percent below those of January 2005.

Falling sales confirm stories about investment properties sitting empty while speculators who'd hoped for quick turnarounds slash prices in the absence of buyers.

The Northeast was particularly hard hit, with sales off 10 percent from December to January and down 13.2 percent since January 2005.

While sales of single-family homes dropped only 1.5 percent from December to January, condo and co-op sales dropped a whopping 10.6 percent. Previously, this was one of the hottest markets, as buyers gobbled up second homes as investments.

The falling sales confirm stories about investment properties sitting empty while speculators who'd hoped for quick turnarounds slash prices in the absence of buyers.

Second homes and investment properties are hit hardest in a cooling market because people don't need them. Sales of primary homes are always bolstered to some extent by first-time buyers and people who for one reason or another have to move.

Anyone who's read this col-

umn for long knows that a glass-is-half-empty outlook on second homes. As investments, they are illiquid — you can't get your money out with the click of a mouse, as with a stock or mutual fund.

Expenses of maintaining and running a second home can offset by renting it part of the time, but to get the biggest benefit on a rental you have to severely limit your own use.

That's like any indulgence: if it makes you happy and have the money, go for it.

But what about a sec-

ond home acquired primarily or exclusively for your own use?

That's like any indulgence:

if it makes you happy and have the money, go for it.

But study the numbers,

real estate, many people

on purchase price and

price, figuring that if the se-

cond home is not in the lion's share of his

net assets, it's not all of it.

With all the talk about

real estate, Chris said, "When

we are asked what is the mos-

t part of the real estate

market, they always say it's

relationship between the agent

and the client. We train the agents

in touch via telephone as

not just technology. There

be that balance."

**THIS WEEK'S HOME GUIDE STARTS ON B18.**

and how we drive traffic to our site and our listings," Chris said.

Like Chris, Souza of the Bay East Association of Realtors is beefing up advertising spend. He will devote 40 percent to 50 percent of ad spend to the Internet, he said.

In addition to Realtor.com, Souza plans to invest money in search engine optimization for his Web site to make sure it shows up high on the list of search results.

The online advertising challenge, Chris said, is driving traffic to the actual listing.

"We're exploring with a number of companies, HomeGain being one of them, on lead generation

and nets the lion's share of his

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and the client. We train the agents

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## shown by appointment

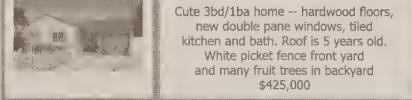
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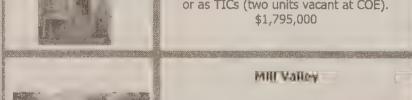
San Pablo

Cute 3bd/1ba home — hardwood floors, new double pane windows, tiled kitchen and bath. Roof is 5 years old. White picket fence front yard and many fruit trees in backyard \$425,000



San Francisco -- Mission

Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 2bd units, wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment or as TICs (two units vacant at COE). \$1,795,000



Mill Valley

Charming 4 bd, 1 ba home in popular Sycamore Park close to schools, rec center, downtown & more. Refinished floors and new paint inside and outside facade. Use as is or bring your imagination. There's lots of potential. \$950,000

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**Christian Thede**

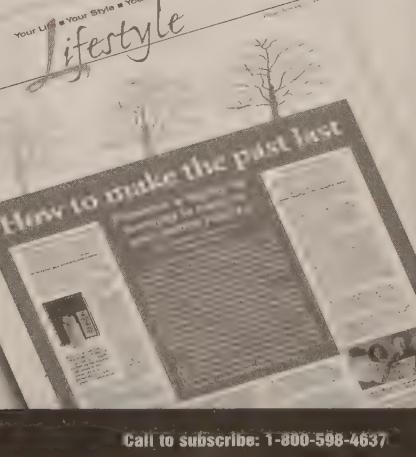
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FROM PAGE B3

Many cities conduct programs for first time homebuyers. Down payment and closing cost assistance is possible as long as funds are available. To find out what our city offers check with your nearest Realtor.

Tax time is here. The self-employed and independent contractor can learn how to take every deduction, reduce your chance of audit and use new tax laws to save taxes. Attend "Basic Tax and Record Keeping Information for Self-Employed People", in Encinitas. The class is taught by tax professional Jan Zornick. For the next date call 415-21015.

## TALK

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter and the Oakland Association of Realtors present "The Art and Science of Professional Speaking" with Eddie Snow, Dale Carnegie trainer. Learn how to speak professionally one on one to an audience. The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, April 21, at the OAR Mary Williams Walton Auditorium. There is no cost to members but you must RSVP at www.oar.org.

## TECH FAIRE

Tech Faire 2006 is coming soon. Check your calendars for this annual event, now in its seventh year. Join your Alameda County real estate associations for classes and a trade show. It is scheduled for Friday, April 28 in Oakland. Watch this column for more details.

## CR

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly Business Resource Breakfast Series is Thursday, April 20. The meeting be-

gins with networking at 8:30 a.m. The location is Buttercup Kitchen, on Broadway in Oakland. For ticket reservations call WCR president Falecia Favroth of Classic Investments at 510-967-6661 or falecia1@comcast.net.

## DYNAMIC

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) presents "The Dynamic Networking Breakfast", from 8 to 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 19. Join Realtists at Jimmie's Entertainment Complex on San Pablo, in Oakland. Agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. Wells Fargo sponsors the meeting. For more information call Tyrone Cosey of First American Title at 510-393-2116.

## STAGING

Statistics show that staged homes sell quicker and often command more dollars. Accredited stager Laron Martel of Open House Staging & Organizing (OHSO) helps Realtors and home sellers transform ordinary listings into model homes. Get an estimate by calling OHSO at 925-383-0947.

## SAFETY

Here's an idea for your office or a client gift. Choose an Earthquake Preparedness Kit from local company, Early Bird Safety. Free delivery is offered to Oakland and Berkeley real estate offices. Order information is at www.earlybird-safety.com.

## TRAINING

Level3 Performance Training promises less prospecting and more sales. Become a top producer. Level3 invites Realtors to attend a no cost, no obligation program orientation. Training for entire offices is available. Call Eric Eng at 510-376-8719.

## BOBBIE HEARS

Kim Cleghorn, president of the Oakland Association of Realtors



U-BILD

## Classic pony rocker always stylish

Like teddy bears and red wagons, traditional rocking horses never go out of style. Even with competition from an amazing array of electronic toys, games and gizmos, these classic toys remain just as popular today as they were a century ago.

## U-BILD

When you handcraft it yourself, a rocking horse becomes more than a classic—it becomes a heirloom that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

This sturdy do-it-yourself version features a limited rocking motion and rounded edges for safety. Wood dowels are used for the handgrips and stirrups, yarn for the mane and tail and a strap leather for the ears.

Full-size patterns and straightforward construction techniques make the project easy for any woodworker, even beginners. To build, just trace the pieces onto 1/2- and 1-by-12 pine and fir (other woods will work) and cut them out. Next, sand everything and assemble using screws, dowels and glue. Finally,

finish the project clear or paint as preferred and attach the mane, tail and ears.

The completed rocking horse measures 44 inches long by 25 inches tall.

The Pony Rocker plan, No. 738, is \$9.95 and includes step-by-step directions with photos, full-size traceable patterns, construction diagrams, a materials list and cutting layout and a toll-free help line for project questions.

A package of four kids' rocker plans, No. C73, is \$24.95 and includes this rocking horse and another one, plus a rocking dinosaur and a rocking airplane. A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2. Please include \$3 for postage and handling (except catalog-only orders) and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at [u-bild.com](http://u-bild.com).

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**2101 SHORELINE DR., #200, ALAMEDA**  
2 BD/1.5 BA, 1110 sq. ft. Two-story bay view townhouse w/ new Italian tile floor, wood-burning fireplace in living room & new carpet in the master BD. Refrigerator, stove, micro are new. Walk-in Shower & new large capacity washer and dryer. **\$548,000**

**3905 EDWARDS AVE., OAKLAND**  
Single-family house, 3 BD & 2 BA, 1,496 sq. ft. Well maintained family home in a good location. Pergo hardwood floor & see through fireplace. Somewhat updated in kitchen & bath, 3 yr old roof, separate cottage in a big back yard. Open Sun 1-4 **\$565,000**

**145 LAWSON RD., KENSINGTON**  
Single-family house, 4 BD & 2 BA, 3,908 sq. ft. Unique custom house w/ Panoramic S. F. bay view from decks and living area. Fresh paint, new wall-to-wall carpets & dual pane windows, gourmet eat-in kitchen opens to backyard w/ 4-person spa & garden area. Large living area w/ master suite & large walk-in closets. **\$1,469,000**

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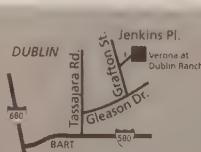
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# IRS requires back up for improvement outlay

Q. My wife and I built a vacation home at Lake Tahoe in 1972 and remodeled it extensively in 1992. Over these past 44 years we have made small almost yearly upgrades to improve the value of our home and property.

Like homes in our area are now selling in the \$1 million range and we would like to sell it. However, I have lost all receipts for improvements. Without actual receipts how can I attempt to verify building and improvement costs to establish a cost basis for the sale of our home?

Also, if we use the rule of living in this home for more than six months a year for two years to establish this as our primary residence, what type of verification do I need

portfolio that are in mutual funds. Our mutual funds overall have generated approximately on an average of 9 percent overall.

The fear we have is if we sell the lot we realize we would have capital gains taxes to pay. By keeping the lot we realize the money is just sitting there and possibly at this point might not increase in value. Oh, what to do?

A. There are several ways to arrive at a solution to your question. The economic characteristics are straightforward. Your investment in the lot has produced an annualized rate of return of about 43 percent (not factoring in property taxes and any other expenses) and your mutual funds a 9 percent rate of return.

If your tax returns are examined by the IRS, you will need to document the cost of the improvements made to the property. You should begin this process before you sell the property.

for the IRS to verify our residency in this home?

If your tax returns are examined by the IRS, you will need to document the cost of the improvements made to the property. You should begin this process before you sell the property. It would be helpful to find before and after photos of the improvements, call your bank for canceled checks, and obtain letters from contractors who performed the work.

With regard to the second part of your question the IRS has several measures to determine occupancy. Factors like where you work, where your family resides, your mailing address, where your tax forms are sent, your car/voter/driving license registration address, bank accounts and membership in clubs and religious organizations are a few of the tests. If you reside in your vacation home for two out of the next five years and have not sold a home where you excluded the gain (up to \$500,000 in profits on the sale of a home may be excluded from taxes by a married couple) within the two year period, you will be able to use the exclusion on your vacation home. What a deal!

Q. My husband is 79 and I am 65, married for 27 years. We moved into new house one year ago, home being approximately valued at \$400,000. We have a \$125,000 mortgage with a 5.85 interest on the loan. At the time we bought the home we purchased two lots, not being sure which we would build on. Now that we are in the home after one year we wonder if we should sell the other lot possibly valued at \$165,000 or higher and pay off our mortgage?

More history that might be pertinent is the lot in question cost \$40,000 in November 2002 and has gone up to \$165,000 in the very short time we have owned it. Making the mortgage payment is not a hardship on us but does require we take out monthly monies out of our



THOMAS MUSIL

Real Estate Q&A

thereafter participate in profits and losses.

Can I foreclose on these two

See MUSIL, Page B7

## Second

FROM PAGE B4

figure is bigger, they've made a profit. To be accurate, you should look at all the costs.

Say you bought a place for \$300,000, borrowing \$240,000 at 6 percent. Suppose the property appreciated 6 percent a year — about double the inflation rate.

After five years, the property would be worth just over \$400,000,

for a \$100,000 "profit" on the \$60,000 initially invested as the down payment. But interest would have cost about \$70,000, reducing the profit to \$30,000.

A \$30,000 gain on a \$60,000 investment over five years is an annual return of about 8 percent, which is nothing special.

But you might also have paid \$5,000 a year in real estate taxes, and another \$1,000 a year in homeowner's insurance. That's \$30,000 over five years — wiping out your profit.

If you pay a standard 8 percent realtor's commission to sell the property, you'd be \$24,000 hole. And we haven't considered maintenance and utilities, furnishings and traveling property. Sure, some people are making less than that. Best see that dream house what it is — an extravagance.

Jeff Brown is a business columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Mail him at brownj@phillynews.com

## Market Indicator\*

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## CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

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Ameriserve Mortgage Corp. 877-464-5218 DOC# 6038562	30-yr Fixed 6,125... .693 6,250... .522 6,314... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,250*... .522 6,347... .30	3/1 ARM 5,625*... .500 5,719... .30	5/1 ARM 5,750*... .754 6,993... .30	www.ameriserve.com Best rates & lowest fees guarantee or we pay \$300! Quality & receive -50% off current lender fees!
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01370755	30-yr Fixed 6,125... .1375 6,260... .1250 6,305... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,250... .1250 6,391... .30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5,500... .1375 5,647... .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5,750... .1375 5,899... .30	OPEN SAT & SUN. QUICK QUALIFIER OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE. NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE.
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ditche.com 800-616-8208 DOC# 6132004	30-yr Fixed 6,000... .2000 6,315... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,125... .2000 6,382... .30	15-yr Fixed 5,750... .2000 6,271... .30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,125... .2000 6,551... .30	Se habla Espanol. Lost another loan to ditche!
Downey Savings & Loan 866-308-2966 DOC# 6037471	30-yr Fixed 6,125... .1750 6,324... .45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,375... .1750 6,557... .45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1,950*... .1000 6,334... .45	30 Year No Neg Arm 4,625... .1000 7,053... .45	Direct lender since 1957. *Pot. neg. arm. Great rates and FAST decisions. Apply online at <a href="http://www.downneysavings.com">www.downneysavings.com</a>
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GMAC Mortgage 926-846-4630 DOC# 00755312	30-yr Fixed 5,375*... .1500 5,560... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5,375*... .1500 5,560... .30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 6,500... .1000 6,640... .30	CalHFA 5yr int only 5,875*... .1500 6,034... .30	Construction, renovation, second homes. Fixed rate seconds, lot loans. *CalHFA rates-FTB/Income restrictions
Los Gatos Lending Connection 866-660-0957 DRE# 01220999	30-yr Fixed 5,875... .1875 6,110... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,250... .1250 6,390... .30	15-yr Fixed 5,920... .35 6,450... .30	30k 417k 2nd Home 6,000... .1375 6,190... .30	Fx30. 6.375% opt APR 6.4 Open This Weekend. Ask for Good Faith. Some Lenders quote Broker/Lender fees outside of Pts/stated
Main Line-Tavistock Mtg. 877-876-3600 DOC# 603 AT84	30-yr Fixed 6,250... .3000 6,320... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,375... .3000 6,402... .30	20-yr Fixed 6,125... .0000 6,217... .30	15-yr Fixed 5,750... .0000 5,860... .30	BEST RATE AND FEE GUARANTEE. NO APPRAISAL FEE. MAINLINE-NATIONAL.COM. NO RATE LOCK FEE. OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mid Atlantic Capital 888-638-1819 DOC# 603B609	30-yr Fixed 5,750... .2000 5,890... .35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,250... .1000 6,375... .35	15-yr Fixed 5,625... .1750 5,920... .35	MTA 1,250*... .0000 4,890... .30	A-B-C-D CREDIT OK. NO DOC LOANS TO \$1M LOANS TO \$4M. STATED TO 100%. OPEN 7 DAYS. INT. ONLY AVAILABLE. *pot neg arm
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00987562	30-yr Fixed 6,250... .0500 6,392... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,375... .0500 6,518... .30	15-yr Fixed 5,990... .0500 6,146... .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6,000... .0000 6,129... .30	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction, Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans. Great Service, Over 25 years in Business.
Mt. Diablo Mortgage 925-837-2020 x205 DRE# 00629151	30-yr Fixed 6,125... .0500 6,265... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,500... .0250 6,620... .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6,250... .0000 6,344... .30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 6,500... .0000 6,598... .30	Free approval 24 hours no out of pocket cost loans available appraised credit at close of escrow
Provident Credit Union 800-632-4600 x2703 DRE# 955-0019	30-yr Fixed 6,625... .0000 6,744... .45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,500... .0000 6,813... .45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 6,625... .0000 6,887... .45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 6,500... .0000 6,562... .45	The rates that appear are based on the purchase transaction of \$175,000 for conforming and \$450,000 jumbo loans.
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01220326	30-yr Fixed 6,375... .0000 6,437... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,625... .0000 6,649... .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6,250... .0000 6,930... .30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6,000... .0000 6,840... .30	1.375% ARM. All Credit/incomes. Fast Home Equity Loans! Purch/Rent to 100% of Saratoga Bancorp.com
Venstar Financial 866-580-6771 DRE# 01400745	30-yr Fixed 6,250... .0000 6,312... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,500... .0000 6,525... .30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 6,250... .0000 6,277... .30	2/1 ARM Jumbo 5,250... .0000 5,273... .30	100% financing full doc or stated income. No closing cost line of credit. 1% start rate for 3 months
Washington Mutual Home Loan 925-256-7171	30-yr Fixed call... . . . . .	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... . . . . .	5/1 ARM Jumbo call... . . . . .	10/1 ARM Jumbo call... . . . . .	Purchases/Close in just 10 days/NO POINTS. Complimentary Pre-Approvals/NO POINTS (925) 256-7171 (866) WAMU-299
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Absolute Mortgage Fund. 888-90-HOMES DRE# 603 AT776	30-yr Fixed 6,125... .0250 6,180... .30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6,375... .0000 6,390... .30	15-yr Fixed 5,875... .0000 5,910... .30	5/1 ARM 5,750... .0000 5,850... .30	LOWEST RATES IN THE INDUSTRY! Free Float Downs. Lender fees only \$399! CALL 888-90-HOMES

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Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$417,000) based on \$450,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Points include origination discount fees, APR, annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. Lock-rate lock-in fees, ARM-adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this guide. Avg 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points. To determine estimated closing costs for each company, click "Fees" in the "Current Mortgage Rates" section of the mortgage guide website and contact each company for details. DCF - Licensed by Department of Corporations. DRE# - Licensed by Department of Real Estate

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# Tour the Secret Gardens of the East Bay

PARK DAY SCHOOL  
Park Day School will hold its annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay tour on Sunday, April 30. The tour features a collection of 13 stunning, carefully selected gardens in Berkeley, Alameda, Piedmont and Orinda.

Some of the highlights of this year's tour include:  
A perfume maker's garden, created by perfumer Laurie Ann and landscaper Gary Lamm. The garden - Stern's laboratory - is a heady blend of fragrances, lavender, jasmine, daphne, and citrus and many other tools of the perfumer's trade. Stern will be making perfume in her garden the day of the tour, and they will be available for sampling and purchase.

A modest, West-Berkeley lot transformed into a horticultural haven by Kevin Farley, who studied with Roger Raiche of Planet Horticulture, and Farley's wife, Alex Hozven, who makes organic sauerkraut for sale at the Berkeley Farmers Market (among other venues). The garden is a plant lover's dream, featuring many uncommon, hard-

to-find dwarf, trees, vines, and varieties of bamboos and succulents. A feast for the eyes, Lee Miller glass art is placed throughout the garden.

A modern garden design in Albany created by David Feix illustrates the dramatic impact that can be created through geometry, textural variety and lush color. The garden was conceived in concert with the owner-designed house, and the marriage is an exquisite tribute to modern architecture and landscape.

See TOUR, Page B8



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Musil

FROM PAGE B6

title? If so, I would lose my property. You need to get an attorney to go into court and ask to allocate interests in the property based upon a partnership agreement. This decision will allow you to unravel the and/or sell the property. You should perform two calculations. First, what is the ownership interest of each party, and if the in-quiet parties want to pay their due payments and penalties, how much would they owe? Q. My wife and I recently bought a new home. We were told a survey was required so we assumed that property description given to us by Coldwell Banker was correct. A description on both the real estate papers and the papers at the closing described the property as being 117 feet.

Two months later, in the course of the neighbor planning a fence we found the property lines to actually be 60 feet by 117 feet, a total of 7,755-square-foot difference. I verified this through the St. Clair county records. Property in this area is going for anywhere between 7 and 10 dollars a square foot.

After further investigation I discovered that several months before, the builder was required to move the shed because it encroached on the neighbor's property. Hence, I find it hard to believe he was unaware of the discrepancy. I have contacted all parties involved several times and no one will return my call. My question is who is responsible for the fraudulent information and what are my options?

A. The builder and the builder's agent had a clear duty to accurately describe and represent the size of the property. Previous problems with an existing shed provide proof that the lot lines were confusing. A court or an arbitrator will rule

in your favor. Often, new home purchase agreements include warranties and arbitration clauses that require that claims be brought forward within certain timelines. You should immediately review your purchase documents and contact an attorney to determine your next step.

Dr. Thomas Musil is the director of the Shenehon Center for Real Estate in the College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. He has over 25 years of experience in real estate as a broker, analyst, consultant and expert witness in real estate litigation and arbitration disputes. E-mail questions to: [tmusil@stthomas.edu](mailto:tmusil@stthomas.edu). Please include your name, city and state.

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## OAKLAND, BERKELEY & KENSINGTON - OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30



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Oakland. One of a kind settings overlooking the park w/panoramic views. Spacious home w/dramatic formal rooms & family room. Mary Merrick



1037 AQUARIUS WAY \$1,350,000  
OAKLAND. Dramatic ultra-modern nestled in the hills. Pure clean architecture in gorgeous setting. Level lawn, spa & serene views. Jill Carrigan



224 WILLAMETTE AVENUE \$775,000  
KENSINGTON. Delightful mid-century w/dazzling Bay views! Impeccably maintained 3BR/2BA w/great room, sunroom & family room! The Ratcliffes



984 LONGRIDGE ROAD \$1,750,000  
OAKLAND. Completely renovated 4+BR/3.5BA w/exceptional in-law/au pair. Kitchen opens to family room. Master w/Jacuzzi tub. Anthony Riggins



5249 COCHRANE AVE. \$1,225,000  
OAKLAND. Custom craftsman shingle by Jarvis Architects. Exquisite kitchen/family room. Beautiful woodwork, built-in hutch & book shelves. Wisteria covered trellis & level garden. Ed Kuo



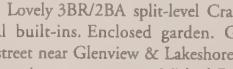
2474 MLK JR. WAY \$459,000  
BERKELEY. Stunning architecturally distinguished 'green' condo built in 2003! Gated, 2-story unit w/2BR suites, soaring ceilings, open floorplan & terrace. Central location. Susie Schevill



6201 VIRGO ROAD \$1,695,000  
OAKLAND. Stylish award winning design contemporary w/Bay & bridge views! 4BR incl. master suite w/fireplace, 3/5BA. Great outdoor living w/deck & level lawn. Angela Wei Grubb



1069 TRESTLE GLEN ROAD \$839,000  
OAKLAND. Traditional 3BR Crocker Highlands English. Graceful arches & elegant fireplace, formal dining room & French doors to patio. Judith Cain



1250 E. 33RD STREET \$519,000  
OAKLAND. Lovely 3BR/2BA split-level Craftsman w/original built-ins. Enclosed garden. Garage. Friendly street near Glenview & Lakeshore, parks & transportation. Michael Friedman

### SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT

PIEDMONT ESTATE \$7,850,000  
Gracefully restored exquisite Albert Farr estate w/6BR/5+BA, beautiful gardens. Mindy Scott

CLAREMONT PINES \$2,150,000  
Dramatic & sophisticated w/ enchanting formal rooms, gourmet kitchen. Pool. Debbi DiMaggio

PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL \$1,250,000  
Enchanting 3+ BR/2BA. Elegant formal rooms & cheery eat-in kitchen. Linda McClain

PIEDMONT ELEGANCE \$6,500,000  
Elegant Miller-Warnecke Tudor Beautiful grounds. Gorgeous formal rooms, 5BR, library. Mindy Scott

BERKELEY HILLS \$1,695,000  
New construction w/Bay views. Luxurious master suite +3 additional BR. Sunny gardens! Bebe McRae

GLENVIEW CLASSIC! \$750,000  
Spacious Prairie style w/au pair unit! 3BR/2BA, family room & formal dining room. Bebe McRae

PIEDMONT JEWEL \$3,595,000  
Graceful 4BR/4BA Mediterranean on nearly one acre of beautiful gardens. Pool. Anian Pettit Tunney

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,395,000  
Exciting 4+BR/3BA contemporary. Gorgeous kitchen, stunning views & office! Dana Cohen

MONTCLAIR COTTAGE \$579,000  
Adorable 2BR/1BA Montclair cottage w/updated kitchen & terraced gardens. Dana Cohen

PIEDMONT CLASSIC \$2,680,000  
Beautifully updated traditional w/large level gardens! 4BR/4.5BA, den & family room. Bebe McRae

CLAREMONT PINES \$1,385,000  
Contemporary 3BR/2+BA w/stunning Bay views. Sunny central garden. Elizabeth Dickson

BERKELEY SPANISH \$1,195,000  
Spectacular Bayview 3BR/4BR. Grand living room. In-law, wine room & family room. Ruth Frassetto

BERKELEY MEDITERRANEAN \$2,500,000  
Elegant Mediterranean Adjoining private park w/pool & tennis. 5BR/5.5BA, Bebe McRae

MONTCLAIR BEAUTY \$1,350,000  
Beautiful Jarvis-designed traditional w/4BR/2.5BA, kitchen/family room open to patio. Bebe McRae

EL CERRITO SPANISH \$875,000  
Updated Spanish style home, updated throughout. Beautiful view of S.F. Bay. Ruth Frassetto

PIEDMONT MEDITERRANEAN \$2,195,000  
Redesigned Mediterranean. 4BR/4.5BA w/au pair suite. Stunning details & gourmet kitchen. Kurt Buchholz

MONTCLAIR (PIED. SIDE) \$1,250,000  
Chic 4BR/3BA contemporary. Recently reinvented w/granite counters, garden & view. Debra Dryden

EL CERRITO HILLS \$710,000  
Captivating S.F. views. 3BR/1.5BA w/bonus family room, dark room & mature garden. Ruth Frassetto

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ARTISAN  
GROUP

## Tour

FROM PAGE B7

■ A glassmaker's studio garden includes a tour of the glassblowers' facility. Here, Cohn-Stone Studios offers a contrast in experience: the hot ovens where the glass is blown to the cooling shade of a lovely garden replete with the glasswork created at the site.

■ A modern garden design in Albany created by David Feix, which illustrates the dramatic impact that can be created through geometry, textural variety and lush color. The garden was conceived in concert with the house, which the owner designed. The result is not a typical Albany house and garden.

As visitors tour these striking outdoor spaces, they will be able to meet and talk with many of the noted designers who created them. The artists include Rachel Evinne, David Feix, as well as talented designers from Feyerband and Madden.

Tickets for the tour are \$45 per person and include a collectible catalog with detailed descriptions of each garden, a map, and directions for the self-guided tour.

Ticketed visitors can also attend lunchtime lectures by garden-design experts on the beautifully landscaped grounds of Park Day School.

Gourmet box lunches are available and must be pre-ordered for \$13 each. The school will also host a marketplace, offering rare plants, fine foods, garden-related wares and the opportunity, once again, to visit with professional garden designers.

Proceeds from the tour and the marketplace are critical to the scholarship and academic programs of Park Day School, an independent K-8 school. Park Day School is located at 370-43rd Street in Oakland.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please call the Garden Tour at 510-653-0317 ext. 103 or visit our website at [www.SecretGardenTour.org](http://www.SecretGardenTour.org).

## Is it time to fix that ARM?

It seems every newspaper we've picked up lately has been lamenting that the evil mortgage lenders have hoodwinked the American public again. Thousands and thousands of unsuspecting homeowners are on the verge of losing their homes due to the rapidly rising rates of their adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs), not to mention that the real estate bubble is about to burst and homes will not be worth their mortgages.

But, the attacks on mortgage loan products continue and are specifically focused on three types of ARMs: The six- and 12-month ARM; the short-term fixed interest only ARM; and the option ARM with potential negative amortization.

Personally, we're not big fans of the very short-term ARMs like the six- and 12-month. The rates are usually tied to the LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) index, which can move as quickly as our (U.S.) Fed funds rate and our prime rate. After six or twelve months there can be an adjustment as high as two points over the start rate or the fully indexed rate, which ever is less.

So, if a borrower starts with 5.25 percent, after 12 months it could jump as high as 7.25 percent. Currently, the 12-month LIBOR index is about 5.29 percent. The margin of 2.25 is added to the index for a fully indexed rate of 7.54 percent.

If in 12 months economics stayed the same the rate cap of 7.25 percent would prevail. But, it is still 2 points higher than the start rate. For a \$400,000 loan the payment difference is between a \$2,209 payment and a \$2,729 payment per month. That's an increase of \$520 per month.

The minimum short-term fixed-rate that we like to work with is usu-



KAREN SENZIG

Mortgage Madness

ally five years. Better still seven- or 10-year short-term rate loan. The majority of short-term fixed-rate loans don't suit the needs for those who know that their lives are changing in that time period. Seven years, the kids will be in college and they may be buying or the corporate executive knows he will be transferred in three to five years.

But the real debate for the term fixed-rate mortgage is whether or not it has an only option. The interest-only option can be a fine cash flow allows the borrower the ability to pay down their mortgage at their own choosing. Critics claim

See SENZIG, Page B8

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ally five years. Better still seven- or 10-year short-term rate loan. The majority of short-term fixed-rate loans don't suit the needs for those who know that their lives are changing in that time period. Seven years, the kids will be in college and they may be buying or the corporate executive knows he will be transferred in three to five years.

But the real debate for the term fixed-rate mortgage is whether or not it has an only option. The interest-only option can be a fine cash flow allows the borrower the ability to pay down their mortgage at their own choosing. Critics claim

See SENZIG, Page B8

shown  
by appointment

Adjoining a private park with pool & tennis court, this elegant Mediterranean enjoys Bay views & grand architecture. Five bedrooms, four and one half baths, formal dining room, family room & level entry from a private drive!

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NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING

COMING SOON

Located in a quiet Montclair neighborhood this 11 year old home blends an open flowing design with formal rooms, large windows, craftsman details, hardwood floors and a flexible floor plan. The spacious kitchen/family room opens to the patio, garden, level grass area and tree studded hillside. Approx 2950 Sq ft of living space that includes 3 BR 3.5 BA and Rumpus room. Excellent storage and a 4 Car Garage!



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## PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

COMING SOON



3518 Rubin Drive, Oakland

Custom built by the seller in 1966, this home, in the Joaquin Miller area, has been well loved by its owner. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a 3 car tandem garage, huge finished basement, partial bay windows and a large level yard are a rare find in the hills. Meticulously maintained, the property has a clear title and no restrictions. The cul-de-sac location is close to parks, freeways and Montclair Village.



Donna Costella

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# Updating those older cabinets

BY ALAN HEAVENS  
CORRESPONDENT

We have an older home in some repairs, mainly on the cupboards. They need updating — color or some. The cupboards have wood and the drawers have plastic. I'm afraid to paint them as I will damage them or make worse. Replacing them is not an option. Any suggestions?

Two different paints, one for plastic, and, I hope, for finishes.

The plastic surface is glossy, a conditioner and then a primer so the new finish chip. Krylon has a paint prod-

uct available in home centers that is designed for plastic and comes in 16 colors.

Painting the wood fronts will be easier. Remove the doors from the cabinets, then remove all the hardware. Wipe all surfaces with a clean rag saturated with mineral spirits (paint thinner) to remove surface contamination. You may have to do this twice or more because older cabinets typically have a heavy buildup of dirt, grease or grime, and wax. Change the rags frequently to avoid re-depositing the dirt and grease.

Wash the surface with equal parts household ammonia and water. Rinse well with clean water. Al-



ALAN HEAVENS  
Real Estate Q & A

low the surface to dry completely. Then prime it with a shellac-based primer-sealer. Let it dry for about an hour.

Finish coats should be an oil-base paint (alkyd enamel) for a more stain-resistant, washable and

See HEAVENS, Page B11

\$875,000 (making this an 80 percent loan to value). The minimum payment is \$2,252 per month for the first year.

That minimum payment will increase by 7.50 percent the second year to \$2,430, the third year to \$2,602, the fourth year to \$2,797 and the fifth year to \$3,007; certainly a gradual and affordable anticipated mortgage payment increase.

The problem is that the minimum payment is a less than interest only payment. The difference between the fully indexed interest only payment (payment option number two) and the minimum payment is added to the principal each month that the minimum payment is made.

If the fully indexed rate is 6 percent and that interest-only payment on \$700,000 loan is \$3,500 per month, about \$1,248 per month is added to the principal each month in the first year, or about \$14,976 in the first year. Although payments are still based on the original loan amount, once the principal balance reaches 115 percent of the original balance, (\$805,000), the lender will

recast the loan for the balance of the term.

If the borrower continues to use the minimum payment and the underlying fully indexed rate continues to rise, it would take about seven to ten years before the lender recasts the note, amortized over 23 to 20 years. It is still an ARM, but the amortization is shorter and the only option is fully amortized at the fully indexed rate. Usually, at this point, most borrowers who are going to keep the property will refinance into a more affordable loan product.

The bottom line is that, while ARMs are a great way to get into property, there does come of time as interest rates are on the rise, but still at historical lows, when the piece of mind of a long term fixed rate mortgage is more comforting than the gamble of the adjustable rate mortgage.

*Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached at 510-339-8511 or e-mailed at Ksenzig@aol.com.*

enzig

PAGE B8

amortization (paying down a bit of the principal with each payment) is an essential part of the home experience.

Successful borrowers with an adjustable rate loan are paying down principal on track with a 15-year mortgage, as their cash flow. Others, who do not subscribe to the real estate bubble believe that the bit of normal inflation will cover their lack of down the principal. One of our clients told us that it was like a bet on your mortgage with the odds.

A loan product that is really bad news is the option the loan with the four payments each month. The first the minimum payment option is the one that the critics are concerned about.

If our borrower chooses a loan with a 1.00 percent minimum payment rate, based on his property is about

old sold

new owners will enjoy one level living in this perfect Piedmont shingle (c. 1908). This home has been charmingly updated with box beam ceilings, leaded windows, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, surrounded by lovely gardens and patios. Originally offered at \$1,100,000

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**RECENTLY SOLD**



**110 WOODLAND WAY  
PIEDMONT**

Dian Hymer represented the buyer of this 3+ bedroom, 2+ bath Piedmont home. Dian has been representing home buyers and sellers in the area for 29 years. Give Dian a call if you're looking for an agent with experience, integrity, diligence and professionalism.

**OFFERED AT  
\$1,800,000**



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**COMING SOON**



**CROCKER HIGHLANDS**

Glimpse San Francisco bridges from the Master Bedroom deck overlooking a large, level backyard. Extensive updates consistent with the Craftsman-style of this 5 bedroom home include custom wood windows and a gourmet kitchen with Viking Range. Other amenities: hardwood floors, updated bathrooms, and a two car garage with interior access. Call me for details!



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# An innovative approach to lattice

NAN

Homeowners who want to enhance the appearance and curb appeal of a home often look to lattice.

Lattice is an inexpensive product that adds style and privacy to outdoor projects without blocking airflow or creating confined spaces. The problem with traditional wooden lattice is its tendency to split, rot and discolor.

A decorative plastic lattice may change all that. Called Severe Weather, it offers the attractiveness of three-dimensional wooden lattice with none of the maintenance.

This lattice is manufactured using a one-piece injection molding process that ensures the product will never split or separate. It is available in four designs: Traditional Diamond, Privacy Diamond, Privacy Square and 3-D Architectural. To match almost any decor theme, this decorative lattice also comes in different colors, such as white, dark green, cedar, redwood and clay.

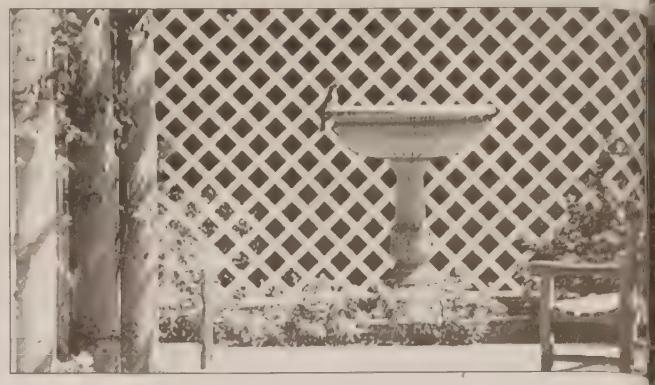
Because the color goes all the way through, the lattice is manufactured to resist scratches and fading in the sun. The 4' x 8' sections are easy to handle, screw or nail, and can be easily cut to fit any design project.

Matching cap and divider moldings enhance the appearance of installed lattice. An installation must be to drill oversized holes to allow for thermal expansion and contraction. Never overtighten screws.

"We designed Severe Weather decorative lattice to be attractive and easy to work with," said Dick Cantley, president of GeoMatrix. "And, like all our products, it's manufactured to provide a lifetime of function and beauty with no maintenance."

Available at Lowe's, the lattice can be used in a variety of outdoor design applications. As a garden arbor or trellis, plastic lattice provides the perfect environment for climbing vines. It can also be used as a semiprivate partition for hot tubs, porches and patios, or as skirting for decks and crawl spaces. It can even be used for indoor craft projects.

Severe Weather products are backed by a limited lifetime warranty. They're designed to bring durability and charm to outdoor decorating and offer do-it-yourselfers the products and resources to beautify their homes at a fraction of the cost and time.



AS A GARDEN ARBOR OR TRELLIS, plastic lattice can provide privacy as well as support for climbing vines.

## How can condo owner get out of a bad deal?

BY ROBERT BRUSS

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

Dear Bob: I made a bad mistake buying a studio condominium. Now I realize there is little demand in my community from buyers who want to purchase a studio condo. The reasons I want to sell are (1) noise from the upstairs and downstairs neighbors, and (2) I need more space. I have listed my studio condo for sale with two different Realtors on 90-day listings each. Neither brought me any offers. How can I get out of my bad deal for which I stupidly paid a \$40,000 cash down payment?

Dear Brad: Except in major cities where space is at a premium, there should be a law prohibiting small studio condominiums, especially in poorly soundproofed buildings like yours. Even one-bedroom condos can be difficult to resell in many markets.

The fact you have \$40,000 cash tied up in your condo is disconcerting. I presume you need that money to buy a nicer condo or house.

Most communities have condo specialist real estate agents who sell the most condos. Find out who those specialists are in your area and seek their advice. One way or another, you can sell your studio condo, but



ROBERT BRUSS

you might have to offer especially attractive terms — Bob W.

Dear Bob: How many times each year can I "roll over" my capital gains with a tax-deferred Internal Revenue

See BRUSS, Page B11

open  
sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A dramatic ultra-modern nestled in the Montclair hills. Pure, clean architecture in a beautiful serene setting. This exceptional home also features a level lawn and gardens with a spa, perfect for entertaining!

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This charming bungalow has 2 bedrooms and one bath with hardwood floors, built-ins in the formal dining room and a fireplace in the living room. There is also a detached plus area in the rear. This home also has beautiful gardens. Conveniently located near Whole Foods, BART and the Rockridge shopping district.

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January



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South Side Lofts is a stunning new development in Berkeley. The property consists of 10 for sale loft style condominiums with a variety of two-level floor plans and dynamic architectural features such as a large mezzanine, high ceilings, saw tooth roofs, and open floor plans. These units feature designer kitchens with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, expansive windows, bathrooms with marble counters, and oversized bathtubs with marble surrounds. Located along the vibrant Telegraph Avenue Corridor in Berkeley's Elmwood Neighborhood, South Side Lofts is just a short walk to U.C. Berkeley, Whole Foods Market and the Rockridge shopping district. With a great Central Bay Area location, South Side Lofts offers access to a wide array of activities and transportation and destinations.

Brenda Walker

Realtor

510-333-5715



# Arbor adds charm and style to your yard

This is the time of year that gardeners love. Seed and plant catalogs have arrived, and chilly winter nights can be spent planning what the yard and garden will look like this spring and summer. Don't forget to include plans for hardscaping, the plant accents that give your yard backbone.

"The latest trend in landscaping is to create 'outdoor rooms,' areas set off by various design elements that provide a place to entertain, or a place to sit and enjoy the garden," says Ken Machan, co-founder and president of New England Arbors, a company that specializes in beautiful arbors. "Landscaping not only increases your enjoyment of your outdoor spaces, but it can add as much as 15 percent to the resale value of your property."

The easiest way to achieve the effect of strolling from one outdoor room to another is with additions like arbors, benches and trellises. They not only help define the space, but also add a distinct design element to the yard. Some arbors can even be wired for lighting and sound to add even more personality to the landscape.

"Arbors help create traffic patterns by leading people to features like a footpath or a comfortable bench. They're also perfect for establishing a grand entryway to your yard, with or without a surrounding fence," says Machan. A well-placed arbor is also a perfect anchor for climbing plants of all kinds, from flowering vines to

Creating outdoor rooms allows you to use more of your yard, expanding your outdoor space beyond your deck or patio and into the surrounding area. When creating your outdoor rooms, be sure to consider the architecture of your home, especially when choosing hardscape elements. For example, for a cottage-style home, a flagstone patio would look more natural than a formal herringbone brick patio.

The same holds true with arbors. If you have a traditional-style home, like a colonial, then choose an arbor with classic lines. If you live in a gingerbread Victorian, you can use a more ornate arbor. New England Arbors offers models to suit all architectural styles, from the stately Yorkshire to the traditional Nantucket to the more ornate Brookfield. All are designed with fine architectural detail to enhance the beauty of your home and garden.

Choose an arbor that is low maintenance and that will look great year after year. Thanks to the use of premium weather-proof vinyl materials, New England Arbors have the look of freshly painted wood without the worry or hassle. "Our arbors replicate the warmth and beauty of real wood, but they offer low maintenance and long-lasting durability," says Machan. "While wood can rot and warp, our arbors maintain their good looks year after year. They won't crack, rot or require painting — a promise we back up with a 20-year limited warranty."

To find out more visit [www.arbors34.com](http://www.arbors34.com) or call 666-325-1065.



## ing it would make a big difference?

A: The problem likely isn't with your washer, but it might be with your builder if he was the one who offered a second-floor laundry room. A washer can spin at speeds of 700 to 1,600 r.p.m., and your second-floor joists obviously are unable to withstand the vibration. Consult a structural engineer to see whether the joists can be reinforced to withstand that vibration.

Have questions for Alan J. Heavens? You can e-mail him at [heavens@phillynews.com](mailto:heavens@phillynews.com) or write him at The Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101.

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A: Standard operating procedure for builders in the 1980s and 1990s was expensive brick on the front, cheaper aluminum and vinyl on the sides. You can replace the siding with brick, but I'd have a structural engineer look at the job before you begin tearing the siding off, just to see if the builder's work can accommodate the additional weight add, more important, to see if anything (such as water intrusion) has weakened what is likely a sound structure.

Bricks expensive and remains a short supply because production capacity has not kept up with demand. You may have to wait to get

Q: I have a problem with green moss growing on the north side of my roof. I put zinc strips down the ridge, but it has not killed the moss. What can I do to get rid of it?

A: There's probably no permanent solution because it's the north-side roof and probably is under trees. Just to ensure that your roof lasts, you'll need to go after that moss before it does any serious damage. A bristled scrub brush attached to a pole should do it. Push the brush down the slope of the roof to tear the moss roots free from the shingles. (Brushing up damages shingles.)

Zinc strips don't work with moss, by the way. You may be thinking about tigae — the best way to deal with that is by using copper strips. Algae looks ugly, but most experts don't believe it will seriously damage your roof — certainly not as much as moss, or trying to use acid to clean it.

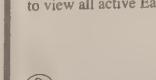
Q: We have a front-loading washing machine on the second floor; the eyer is stacked on top (a design in a new house). The eyer shakes when the washer runs. I had a serviceman look at it, and he told me that front-loading washers do not belong on the second floor because of the powerful spinning — they that should be on the ground floor and on cement, which they don't tell you when you buy the washer. I would like to keep the washer upstairs if I could. Is there any way to support it, and do you think unstack-

ing the eyer would help?

A: The eyer shakes when the washer runs. I had a serviceman look at it, and he told me that front-loading washers do not belong on the second floor because of the powerful spinning — they that should be on the ground floor and on cement, which they don't tell you when you buy the washer. I would like to keep the washer upstairs if I could. Is there any way to support it, and do you think unstack-

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Visit [www.DoloresThom.com](http://www.DoloresThom.com) for photos & more information and to view all active East Bay listings.



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## Bruss

FROM PAGE B10

Code 1031 exchange? I am a real estate investor who "flips" several properties each year by purchasing at bargain prices, fixing up, and then profitably reselling without renting the property — Annette H.

**Dear Annette:** Internal Revenue Code 1031 contains no limit on the frequency of tax-deferred exchanges. Of course, all the properties must be held for investment or for use in a trade or business.

The big danger I see in your fre-

quent "flips" is the IRS might argue, upon audit, you are a real estate dealer rather than an investor. If you are classified as a dealer, then your profits are taxable as ordinary income. For more details, please consult your tax adviser.

The new Robert Bruss special report, "Everything Homeowners Need to Know About the \$250,000 and \$500,000 Home Sale Tax Exemption," is now available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or instant download at [www.bobbruss.com](http://www.bobbruss.com). Questions for this column are welcome at either address.

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### PRIME LOCATION



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**\$549,950**

### DUPLEX



#100 - On huge corner lot will be delivered, vacant/wimmin interior cosmetic work complete, including new interior paint. One unit has laminate, tile & lino floors, other unit has carpet, tile & lino. Detached 2-car garage plus off-street parking. A bit of TLC will make this property stand out!

**\$518,000**

3042 PARK RIDGE DR., RICHMOND #105 - CCV - Extra large lot, plus partial Bay view from master suite, this will take your breath away. Numerous upgrades include bamboo wood floors throughout & surround sound speaker system. Easy freeway access.

**\$786,000**



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104 Waterview Dr. 3BR 3BA, approx. 1,675 sq. ft., kitchen with granite counters & tile floors, gleaming hardwood floors, 2 car att. garage, new carpets upstairs. Shows like a model!

**Michele Manzone** (510) 662-8545



### RICHMOND MARINA

**SUNSET POINT/GREAT NEWER HOME** \$734,950  
104 Waterview Dr. 3BR 3BA, approx. 1,675 sq. ft., kitchen with granite counters & tile floors, gleaming hardwood floors, 2 car att. garage, new carpets upstairs. Shows like a model!

**Michele Manzone** (510) 662-8545

# Alain Pinel Realtors sponsoring Skyline High School event

ALAIN PINEL

Alain Pinel Realtors is sponsoring Skyline High School Beautification Day on Saturday, April 29. As part of its sponsorship, the majority of the 19 real estate professionals from Alain Pinel in Montclair plan to volunteer in the one-day cleanup and landscape planting at the high school. It is the second annual Skyline Beautification Day to benefit the high school, which is one of six comprehensive public high schools in Oakland and serves 2,220 students from throughout the city.

Skyline High School is in the Oakland Hills, near the company's Montclair office.

Last year, and after years of budget cut-backs in Oakland's school districts, Skyline High's 45-acre campus was run-down and needed a thorough cleaning

This is such a good thing for the school and our community that it was very easy to rally our entire office around supporting the Skyline Beautification Day.

Kate Castle  
Alain Pinel Realtors

and landscape make-over. The Skyline Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Beautification Committee was subsequently re-activated after many years of inactivity.

The committee began work to renovate the grounds of the campus and help support the school's groundskeeper. More than 80 volunteers from school and community helped with gen-

eral cleanup, weeding and trimming, planting, repair of vandalized areas, power-washing and removal of debris. Teachers and students designed and built planter boxes for the portable classrooms. The cleanup was so successful that the PTSO decided to make it an annual event.

Alain Pinel's Kate Castle is

See SKYLINE, Page B13

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★ ★ NEW PIEDMONT AVENUE LOFT LISTING! ★  
★ ★ Open House - Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 1-4:00pm ★ ★



2 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms

3913 Cerrito Avenue  
Offered @ \$599,000

An Amazing Loft/Townhome in An Amazing Neighborhood

Find out why these unique urban loft/townhomes sold out in record time, just a few years ago. This stunning residence features 2 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, with 3 stories of incredible space and light. Built by a quality builder to exacting standards with extensive use of hardwoods, architectural metal work, natural stone, acid stained concrete, and museum quality wall finishes. Soaring 24 foot ceilings in the living room that is flooded with natural light, a deck, huge industrial windows open up vistas from every room, a spacious eat-in kitchen, and a private garage are just some of the components that make loft living here so great. Your new home is fully wired for cable, satellite, phone, and data. The master sleeping loft has a real sense of drama, overlooking the living area and the master bathroom is a work of art with a flamed granite floor and oversized oval tub. The eat-in kitchen is a dream for both the cooks and the helpers - featuring stainless steel appliances, tons of quality work space and generous amounts of cabinetry. The sleek black granite countertops compliment the unique cherry and maple cabinets creating a beautiful look. The second bedroom is what really sets this loft apart from its competitors with a private outdoor garden and patio, ample storage, and acid washed concrete floors - it is just perfect for guests' a home office or ??

If you are looking for a real neighborhood then you are in luck. The neighbors at PiedmontAvenueLofts are friendly and connected. The local neighborhood is unparalleled in loft living in the East Bay. Piedmont Avenue is just 2 short blocks away and offers all the finest - Restaurants, shops, movies, cafes, book stores, and sunny places to walk, watch and work. Commuting is snap from here and of course there are gallons of coffee nearby!

Ron Kriss, Broker  
510-547-5970 Ext 55 [ronkriss@jps.net](mailto:ronkriss@jps.net)

Online Tour @ [www.PiedmontAvenueLofts.com](http://www.PiedmontAvenueLofts.com)



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From the mid-\$300,000s



From the low \$300,000s



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DIRECTIONS: From I-80, take I-580 west toward Point Richmond/San Rafael to Marina Bay Parkway/South 23rd Street exit; left onto Marina Bay Parkway and follow signs to sales information centers at Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove.

Hills Newspapers: Your number one source for up-to-date East Bay real estate information

## kyline .

ON PAGE B3  
om heading the office's participation in this year's cleanup and  
renovation.

"This is such a good thing for school and our community and it was very easy to rally our office around supporting Skyline Beautification Day. Everyone knows the important relationship between the quality of schools and real estate, so it is a great fit for Realtors to jump in and help," said Castle. Kate Castle has been a Realtor for 14 years and works with her husband, Hal Castle, who has been a Realtor in the Montclair District for 33 years.

For 2006, the PTSA have already purchased plants and wagons for the planter boxes, and more than 200 daffodils

donated through the Keep Oakland Beautiful program, arranged for additional trash receptacles to be placed both around the athletic field and successfully lobbied Waste Management to install larger receptacles on Skyline Boulevard. The organization also renovated a garden that was decimated by deer.

Area residents who wish to contribute to the Skyline High School Beautification program can do so. Checks should be made payable to: Skyline HS PTSA - Beautification Committee and mailed to Skyline High School 12251 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94619, to the attention of the PTSA Treasurer.

For information contact Kate Castle in the Montclair office of Alain Pinel by calling 510-899-8007 or kcastle@april.com. The Alain Pinel Realtors' office is at 6116 La Salle Avenue on the second floor in Montclair Village.

## This week's Open Home Guide can be found on B18.

CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR AT  
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RICHMOND - NEW! \$519,000  
2/1 - Charming bungalow. Fresh paint, hardwood floors, fireplace, built-in bookshelves, Spanish tile in kitchen, backyard, gazebo. 5621 Burlingame Avenue Open 2-4



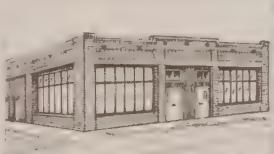
OAKLAND - NEW! \$439,000  
LOFT - Sunwashed with private garden, mezzanine, stainless steel kitchen, skylights, secure parking. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com) 2323 Magnolia Street #1 Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$499,000  
1+2 - Stunning designer warehouse loft with slate floors, fabulous mezzanine, masonry walls, skylights. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com) 3015 Myrtle Street #19 Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$499,000  
1+1/2 - 2-story industrial loft with volume & light has concrete & wood floors, 1,620 sq.ft. 2-car covered parking. [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com) 2323 Magnolia Street #9 Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$357,000-\$375,000 each  
6 LOFTS - In a very cool warehouse conversion with mezzanines, stained concrete, marble, skylights & more! [www.saragarabedian.com](http://www.saragarabedian.com) 2201 West Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$379,000  
2/1 - Gourmet kitchen & incredible light in tastefully renovated 1920's condo. Hardwood floors, original moldings, deck, views, garage. 594 55th Street Open 1-5



OAKLAND \$569,000  
DUPLEX - Very charming on Emeryville border. Lower unit has box-beam ceilings, fireplace, updated kitchen & bath. Sunny cheerful upper unit. 931 57th Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$315,000  
STUDIO - Jazzy studio in warehouse conversion has remodeled kitchen & bath. Masonry walls, polished concrete floors, secure parking. 730 29th Street #109 Open 2-4

BERKELEY \$849,000  
3/3 - Newly renovated Mediterranean has it all! Living room with views of SF & Bay Bridge, formal dining room. Custom wine cellar. More! 900 Cragmont Avenue Open 1-4

BERKELEY \$669,000  
3/2.5 - Contractor's dream! 2,300+ sq.ft., large living room with fireplace, dining room, huge deck, garage. [www.justsellmyhouse.com](http://www.justsellmyhouse.com) 1060 Grizzly Peak Boulevard Open 2-4

OAKLAND \$899,000  
3/2 - Sunny, spacious Traditional with a twist! Fabulous new kitchen, open floor plan, large family room, large deck, yard.

OAKLAND \$629,000  
2/1 - Mediterranean charmer with hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, hot tub, new windows. Close to Piedmont Avenue shops.

OAKLAND \$1,250,000  
3/3 - Fantastic 2,400 sq.ft. complete remodel with high-end finishing touches in 2004. [www.charliecookproperties.com](http://www.charliecookproperties.com)

OAKLAND \$309,000  
1/1 - Remodeled condo! Serene, light with updated kitchen & bath, granite counters. Parking, deck, pool.

RICHMOND \$434,500  
2/1 - Immaculate! Upgraded kitchen with granite counters, new cabinets. Hardwood floors. Near Civic Center.

RICHMOND \$540,000  
3/2 - Bright and clean Hilltop home on a large parcel. Large family room addition, double garage and convenient location.

RICHMOND \$479,000  
2/2.5 - Sunny, cottage-style townhome in serene Bayside complex. New carpet, 2 master suites, 3 assigned parking spaces, more.

RICHMOND \$475,000  
2/2.5 - Cape Cod townhome has master suite upstairs. Next to Marina & San Francisco Bay. [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com)

## coming soon

This very special property located on a quiet cul-de-sac near Montclair Village is a rare find. A recent garden makeover by Landscape Smart for HDTV has created a back yard haven with an expansive grassy lawn, patio, decks, and play area all accessible from the lower level family room. An open floor plan on the main level creates a light airy feeling with glass doors to an elegant terrace/deck overlooking the garden. Lovely modern kitchen, updated baths, three+ bedrooms, two+ baths including a marvelous master suite and family room create an ideal floor plan for gracious living.

Price Upon Request



5939 Almaden Lane,  
Montclair



ELIZABETH DICKSON  
Office: 510.339.0400/218  
[dickson@grubbc.com](mailto:dickson@grubbc.com)

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REALTY  
ADVOCATES

by appointment

ALBANY \$630,000  
2/2 - Great location! Updated kitchen and bath, hardwood floors. Fully developed downstairs with den, bathroom & garage.

BERKELEY \$959,000  
5/3 - Striking Contemporary with panoramic Bay views. Cook's kitchen, family/media room, Japanese garden. [www.heidiandjerry.com](http://www.heidiandjerry.com)

EMERYVILLE \$265,000  
STUDIO - Updated studio in Watergate. Kitchen with tile floors, new granite counters & appliances. [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com)

SAN PABLO \$499,000  
3/1 - Sun-filled & in great Tara Hills location, 1/2 block to Pinole. Large yard, deck, fireplace. [www.justsellmyhouse.com](http://www.justsellmyhouse.com)

OAKLAND \$899,000  
3/2 - Sunny, spacious Traditional with a twist! Fabulous new kitchen, open floor plan, large family room, large deck, yard.

OAKLAND \$629,000  
2/1 - Mediterranean charmer with hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, hot tub, new windows. Close to Piedmont Avenue shops.

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RICHMOND \$479,000  
2/2.5 - Sunny, cottage-style townhome in serene Bayside complex. New carpet, 2 master suites, 3 assigned parking spaces, more.

RICHMOND \$475,000  
2/2.5 - Cape Cod townhome has master suite upstairs. Next to Marina & San Francisco Bay. [www.katieandmark.com](http://www.katieandmark.com)

[april 16<sup>th</sup>]

# The timeline of a home sale: What you should expect

■ Three tasks make up the home selling process

INMAN NEWS

Sellers often underestimate the time it will take to properly prepare their home for sale. For this reason, it's wise to start home sale preparations months before you actually want to put your home on the market.

For scheduling purposes, it helps to work backwards from the date that you'd ideally like to move. Let's say you want to be in a new home by June 1. There are three big tasks that need to be accomplished in order to make this happen:

One is preparing the home for sale. The second is marketing the home to find a buyer. And the third is to work through contract contingencies and close the sale.

Most homes benefit from de-cluttering, furniture rearranging, cleaning, painting and updating outdated floor coverings and light fixtures. These improvements cost relatively little and offer a good return on the investment.

You can sell a home in any condition; there is always a market for fixer-uppers. However, buyers pay more for homes they can move right into without having to do work. With more competition from other sellers who want to take advantage of a low-interest rate market, buyers will have the luxury of choice.

A good real estate agent can help you map out fix-up-for-sale projects. Your agent can also put you in touch with reliable inspectors, contractors and stagers to assist with these endeavors.

As soon as you figure out the scope of the work, you can schedule a marketing date. The next step is to figure out how long it will take to find a buyer.

Ask your real estate agent to provide you with the listing and pending sale dates for listings similar to your home that recently sold in your neighborhood. This information should be available through the Multiple Listing Service.

The time it takes to find a buyer can vary significantly from one area to the next. Be sure to use the most recent comparable sales information. The market is in flux. In general, it's taking longer for listings to go to pending now than it did a year ago.

The third element of the home sale process is closing the deal. You have some control over this. The closing date is negotiable.

When interest rates are rising, you could find buyers who want to close quickly in order to protect an interest rate commitment. Sellers often agree to cooperate with a fast sale in the interest of closing the sale. Sellers who aren't ready to move out by that date should ask the buyer for permission to rent back their home after closing. Although the closing date is negotiable, a typical closing date is 30 days from contract acceptance.

After collecting the above information, you're prepared to sched-

ule your sale. Let's say you estimate it will take 45 days to get your home ready to sell, 30 days to find a buyer and 30 days to close the deal.

This means you should start the prep work by Feb. 15 for an April 1 list date, a May 1 pending sale date and a June 1 closing. It's wise to build in a little wiggle room into your plan to account for unforeseen events.

Occasionally a home sale doesn't make it to closing. Often this is due to disputes over who pays for defects that arise during the buyer's inspections. This can set your schedule back while you find another buyer or work out the disputes.

**THE CLOSING:** You can minimize the risk of a deal falling apart by getting pre-sale inspections before you start the fix-up work. If money permits, it's wise to correct some de-



DIAN HYMER  
House Hunting

fects before marketing your home.

Dian Hymer is a Realtor, author and nationally syndicated columnist. She can be reached at 510-339-4777 or at [Dian@Dianhymer.com](http://Dian@Dianhymer.com).

**PLEASE RECYCLE  
THIS NEWSPAPER.**

## coming soon

Elegance in Crocker Highlands! This beautifully updated vintage home offers tall ceilings and light filled rooms. The spacious, state-of-the-art kitchen opens to a deck and landscaped patio/garden. The romantic master suite adjoins an office and walk-in closet, and features a fabulous new bath with steam shower. Treat yourself to a very special home in Oakland's most popular neighborhood.



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15209 LAVERNE DRIVE  
3BD/2BA. Large family rm w/ open beam ceiling, completely remodeled kitchen, upgraded baths, A/C, hardwood floors, dual pane windows, new fences, & all new appliances. \$599,000.

**1417 SEAGATE DRIVE:**  
"BB Model" 1 Bed, 1 Bath, 2.5 bath Condo in Seagate w/ private spa, tennis courts, one block to L. Marina. \$539,000.

**HAND-NEW LISTING!**  
OPEN SAT & SUN 4/15 & 4/16 1-4PM  
14390 OUTRIGGER DR.  
Tastefully decorated! Very popular "CC" model at Marina Seagate 2 BD/2 BA, sep laundry rm, 2-one car garages. Asking \$450,000.

**COMING SOON:**  
1162 LOUISE STREET  
OAKLAND  
BRAND-NEW LISTING  
FIRST TIME OPEN  
SAT & SUN 4/15 & 4/16, 1-4PM  
895 MARSHIN ST. 1617  
Beautiful condo at the Franklin 89. New, nice, cozy 2BD/2BA, balcony, rooftop garden, updated kitchen with granite counters, in-unit washer & dryer, valet parking. \$629,888.

**OPEN SUNDAY 4/16, 1-4PM**  
3800 MAYBELLE AVE. UNIT #12  
2BD/1.5BA. Beautiful townhouse in quiet community, upgraded throughout. Kitchen w/ maple cabinets and granite counters, new carpet and flooring. \$384,000.

**COMING SOON:**  
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Keeping track of the latest real estate activity? Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on

## House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate &amp; Home section first.

shown  
by appointment

Beautiful Mark Becker design with Bay views and lovely gardens! Four bedrooms, three baths, kitchen/family room, exercise room and an attached garage! Close to Montclair shops and easy commute!

Offered at \$1,595,000



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3373 BIRDSALL AVENUE \$469,000

**Maxwell Park.** Light-filled two bedroom, one bath with character! Living room with vaulted ceiling, large picture window with view, and fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, large updated eat-in kitchen with new flooring and greenhouse window, gorgeous tile bath, sunny level yard with patio, detached garage with automatic opener.

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228

## COMING SOON



## LAUREL BUNGALOW

**Laurel.** Enjoy this two bedroom, one bath Laurel bungalow close to shopping, schools, transportation and easy freeway access. Original architectural detail, beautiful hardwood floors and tasteful upgrades! The potting shed, downstairs bonus area and spacious backyard are places to relax or play.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

27 ALLENDALE AVENUE \$639,000

**Maxwell Park.** Fabulous Tudor with architectural detail and charm on great street! Spacious three bedroom, one and a half baths, living room with Mahogany trim, elegant fireplace and view, new gourmet kitchen with slate floor and cherry cabinets, eat landscaped yard and Redwood deck, two-car garage, many upgrades!

Carol Phillips 531-7000 x228

22 KNOB AVENUE \$555,000

**Leona Heights.** Sparkling three bedroom, two bath home in Leona Heights with updated kitchen and open floor plan has great separation of space. Get the best of both worlds with a rural feeling and quick easy freeway access.

Open Sunday 1:30-3:00

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Tom Roberts, Branch Manager 531-7005

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Beautiful Jarvis designed traditional with enchanting outdoor spaces! Four bedrooms, two and one half baths Kitchen/family room opens to patio, garden and outdoor room with fireplace! Near Montclair Village.

Offered at \$1,350,000



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A sophisticated modern classic with stunning renovation design by Richard Janzen with state-of-the-art finishes, flowing open floorplan, three bedrooms, three and one half baths.

Originally offered at \$1,435,000



535 lace Avenue, Piedmont

ANTHONY RIGGINS  
Represented the Buyer  
510.339.0400/282  
ariggins@grubbc.com

GRUBBCO.COM

JILL CARRIGAN  
Represented the Seller  
510.339.0400/328  
jcarrigan@grubbc.com



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## BY APPOINTMENT

6833 MOORE DRIVE \$889,500

**Montclair.** Double size lot of 12000+ sq. ft. Renovated in the 80's, this spacious home has 3BD/3BA, in-law/family room, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, two car garage, level yard area and additional deck area.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

A PLACE TO CALL HOME \$539,000

**Hayward.** Don't miss this three bedroom, one bath totally remodeled home. Featuring large backyard with Jacuzzi tub. Updated everything. Close to elementary school and Mission Blvd.

Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262

CHARMING VICTORIAN \$499,000

**Oakland.** Take a look at this! 3BD/2BA Victorian with original detail. Formal dining room, living room with wood burning fireplace, updated kitchen, master suite with deck, garage and full basement.

Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262

ROSE GARDEN CONDO \$490,000

**Oakland.** Lovely condo located near Piedmont Avenue and Grand Avenue. Updated kitchen and 2BA. Recently painted and carpeted a few years back. Top floor unit with vinyl double pane windows.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## INCOME PROPERTIES

5 HOMES PLUS MOTEL \$5,992,296

Commercial property in Northern CA along I-5. Currently used for five residential & commercial properties. Excellent development for shopping center, mix-use, building.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

CASH COW IN 5 APARTMENTS \$1,950,000

**Oakland.** Five bedroom, three bath owner's unit and four newer two bedroom, one bath apartments. Real money maker. Gross Income \$87,000/year.

Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

## LAKE MERRITT AREA

\$895,000

**Adams Point, Four Plex.** Originally a grand four plus bedroom, four bath home. Tastefully converted many years ago. This building could possibly be converted back to a single family or duplex. At this price it rivals single home prices for the area.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## FOURPLEX

\$829,000

**Oakland City Center.** Downtown location with upstairs three bedroom, two bedroom, two one bedroom apartments. Separately metered.

Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258

## OAKLAND FOUR PLEX

\$825,000

**Downtown Oakland.** Four units off Broadway. Currently vacant. Great local for law, medical, real estate, artist offices. Needs minor interior finishing work

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## LAND FOR SALE

## GORGEOUS VIEWS ORINDA \$1,600,000

View of Contra Costa and San Francisco and Bay. Five plus acres. Unincorporated. Large level area. Zoned AZ-horses allowed.

David Hennigan 531-7000 x229

## OAKLAND DEVELOPMENT \$1,600,000

Approximately 36,000 sq.ft. level lot. Located near High street and highway 880. Zoned for commercial, live-work, mfg. Reports available. Price below comparables.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## CORNING, CA \$1,594,296

Three acre development property located in Corning, CA off I-5. Currently used as motel, but commercially zoned for many uses.

Adjoining nine acres also available. Excellent locate for shopping center or big box comps.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## MONTCLAIR LOT

\$600,000

Four contiguous lots. All up slopes. May be sold individually for \$150K each. Utilities in street. Survey available. Won't last-hurry.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## UP SLOPE LOT

\$283,000

Approved plans for 4000 sqft dream home. Area of 1.2+ acres. Call for plan review.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

## MAXWELL PARK

\$170,000EA

Two contiguous up slope lots in Oakland. Utilities in street. Soil report on order. Offers reviewed after soil report is received.

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Ray Fry



Yolanda Lane



Marty Appel



Greg Herman



Mitch Gras...

Bob Ran...



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FINE HOMES & ESTATES  
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## Hillcrest Estates

\$1,895,000

4+BR/3BA. San Francisco, Golden Gate, Bay Bridge, & Mt. Tam are sensational from every angle of this 2+ acre ultra-private retreat. Mediterranean & mission elements create a 4,700 sq. ft. home w/ pool & spa.

Helen Nicholas



## Alameda

\$1,699,000

4BR/3BA + 2BR/2BA Au Pair with separate entrance. Gorgeous Victorian remodel. Gourmet kitchen, FR, FDR, LR, master suite. Huge home in Alameda's Gold Coast.

Andrea Gordon



1128 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$1,495,000

Soon



## Oakland

\$979,000

3+BR/2+BA. 20th century tri-plex upgraded to the 21st century w/ new roof, elec., double car gar & chef's kit in owners unit. 1BR/1BA vacant unit upstairs w/ prvt entry. Studio below w/ kit & own patio. Take time to see this special property.

515 Valley Vista Ave.

Open Sun 2-4:30

Tom Erwin

[www.515ValleyVista.com](http://www.515ValleyVista.com)

## Berkeley

\$899,000

Tri-plex. Wonderful tri-plex in location. Nicely maintained & grounds. 2 additional, rented units. Serious Investors opportunity.

Andrea Gordon



## Oakland

\$769,000

3 Units. Super tri-plex w/ development potential. Beautifully maintained, exc. loc. Huge lot. Zoned R50, parcel next door avail. also. Great for owner/occupant too.

Andrea Gordon



## Oakland

\$699,000

3BR/3BA. A very nice & spacious tri-level tudor. Separate private entry to updated lower level. Call for a private showing.

Sheila Brox Crawford

5+BR/4BA. Fabulous large N. Berkeley craftsman-style home. Multiple decks & hot tub allow one to enjoy seeing the bay, the bridge, & gorgeous sunsets. 1 BR Au Pair unit with separate entrance. Low maintenance gardens. Walk to "gourmet ghetto".

Coming Soon  
Miriam Wilson  
(510)339-8900



## Pinole

\$634,900

4BR/2BA. Light cosmetic fixer. Spacious LR w/cathedral ceilings & fireplace. Large master suite. FR that leads to lushly landscaped bkd. Minutes to regional parks, freeway & schools.

2853 Wright Ave.

Open Sun 2-4:30

Jody Dworzak



## Oakland

\$449,000

3BR/1BA. Charming remodeled craftsman. Hdwd flrs, gorgeous built-ins. Stainless steel granite cntrp. View video online: [www.casabylethebay.com](http://www.casabylethebay.com)

J.C. Gonzalez

[HeritageRealEstate.com](http://HeritageRealEstate.com)

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**31 AVENIDA DRIVE  
BERKELEY**



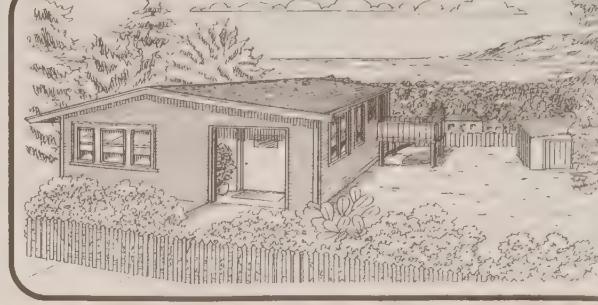
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**4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths**  
**Approx. 7,592 Sq. Ft. +/- Lot**  
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**Remodeled Eat-In Gourmet Kitchen**  
**Light Maple Kitchen Cabinets**  
**New GE Stainless Steel Appliances**  
**Oak Hardwood & Stone Tile Floors**  
**Remodeled Bathrooms**  
**Two Car Attached Garage**  
**Manicured Front Landscaping**  
**Unfinished Basement Area**  
**Close to UC Berkeley, Tilden Park & BART**



**Big Lot, Big View, Big Dreams**

Live in the 2Br/1Ba cottage and enjoy the stunning Bay views while you design and build your dream house on the lower portion of this 10,000+sq ft lot.

**\$585,000**

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**(510) 428-0757**  
[www.realtyadvocates.com](http://www.realtyadvocates.com)



**Weekend OPEN HOMES**

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

[www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com)**Alameda**

\$439,000	339 Broadway #211	2BD/2BA
Open Sat 1-4 & Sun. 2-5		510-504-5998
Mary Lee Millard	Agent	
\$459,000	2137 Otis Dr. #322	2BD/2BA
Sun 2-4	510-332-5683 / 331-5480	
Kane & Associates	Ron Martin/Vickie Lim	
\$459,500	339 Broadway #205	2 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	Laguna Hacienda 510-748-1108/748-1164	
Gallagher & Lindsey	B. & G. Bissett / J. Francis	
\$469,500	2137 Otis Dr. #121	2 BD/2 BA
Sat 2-4	St. Francis 510-748-1108/748-1171	
Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	B. & G. Bissett / S. DiGiulio	
\$475,000	1594 Pacific Ave	2 BD/1 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	Central Alameda 510-514-4859	
Harbor Bay Realty	Karen Wellman	
\$495,000	2027 Otis Dr. #F	2 BD/2 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	South Shore 510-522-9600	
Harbor Bay Realty	Izabella Lipetski	

**Alameda**

\$498,500	1426 MacArthur Blvd	2 BD/1 BA
Sat 1-4	Oakland	510-207-2378
Harbor Bay Realty	Donnaluca Williams	
\$529,000	1130 Fontana Dr	3 BD/1.5 BA
Sat 2-4	Bay Farm Island	510-814-4841
Harbor Bay Realty	Tom Young	
\$539,000	3210 Fiji Lane	2 BD/1.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	(510) 508-1215/332-5683/331-5480	
Kane & Associates	J. McNulty/R. Martin/V. Lim	
\$569,000	1829 9th St.	2 BD/1 BA
Sat 2-4	Central Alameda	510-814-4833
Harbor Bay Realty	Karen Miller	
\$615,000	635 Centre Ct	2 BD/2.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	Harbor Bay Isle	510-814-4802
Harbor Bay Realty	Rich Krinks	
\$629,000	1089 Melrose	3 BD/2.5 BA
Sat 2-4		510-410-0595 / 846-5141
Kane & Associates	Marie Kane / Elizabeth Kane	

**Alameda**

\$629,000	1522 Court Street	2+BD/1 BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	510-610-5009 / 919-3204	
Kane & Associates	Sally Han / Dede Cunningham	
\$649,000	1606 Santa Clara Ave	2 BD/1.5 BA
Sat/Sun 2-4	Central Alameda 510-814-813/814-4837	
Harbor Bay Realty	Richard & Carole Kim	
\$659,000	3550 DePassier Way	2 BD/2 BA
Sat & Sun 2-4	Heritage 510-748-1807 / 748-1162	
Gallagher & Lindsey Inc.	Ann Bracci / Chih Wu	

**Alameda**

\$879,000	126 Sable Pointe	3 BD/2.5 BA
Sat 2-4	510-506-3383 / 522-4633	
Kane & Associates	Kathy Ratto / Beverly Fukuchi	
\$898,000	1605 Buena Vista Ave.	3-4 BD
Sat 2-4	510-748-1148	
Gallagher & Lindsey	Pacita Dimacal	
\$925,000	1815 Broadway	1 BD/1 BA
Sun 2-4	East End 510-748-1125 / 748-1158	
Gallagher & Lindsey	Troy Staten / Tom Bennett	

**Berkeley**

\$530,000	2711 Mabel St.	2 BD/1 BA
Open Sun 2-4	Coldwell Banker	
	Parviz Bagheri	
\$565,000	2104 Sacramento St	3 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 1-5	510-984-2000/415-3	
Windermere Bay Area	Gina	
\$669,000	1060 Grizzly Peak	3 BD/2 BA
Open Sun 2-4	Red Oak Realty	
	Shahriar	
\$769,000	1486 Campus Dr	3 BD/2 BA
Open Sat 1-4 & Sun. 2-5		
Dennis Millard		
\$849,000	900 Cragmont Ave	3 BD/2 BA
Open Sun 1-4		
Red Oak Realty		
\$950,000	31 Avenida Drive	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun 2-4:30		
Alain Pinel Realtors		
\$985,000	1418 Milvia St.	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun 2-5		
Coldwell Banker		
\$1,150,000	2010 Yolo Avenue	4 BD/2 BA
Open 1-4		
Investment House Realty		
\$1,195,000	60 Eucalyptus Rd	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sat/Sun. 2-5		
Prudential		
\$2,200,000	1071 Cragmont Ave	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4:30		
Marvin Gardens R.E.		
Todd Hodson / Ron Egan		

**Albany****Berkeley**

\$539,000	453 Jackson St.	2BD/2BA
Open Sun 2-4	Townhouse/Condo	510-527-9111
Marvin Gardens R.E.	Laura Dubinett	
\$549,000	708 Adams St	2bd/2ba
Open Sat. 2-5		510-758-5119
Target Realty	Peggy Tseng	
\$875,000	1347 Washington Ave	3+bd/2ba
Open Sun. 2-4		510-524-8508
Bill Shaw, JeansRealty.com		
\$949,000	1010 Peralta St	4bd/2ba
Open Sat/Sun. 2-5		510-409-6977
Liz Stevens		
Windermere Bay Area		
\$1,195,000	3161 Brent Ct	3 BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4		
Castro Valley		
\$1,200,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$1,740,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$1,950,000	3161 Brent Ct	3 BD/2 BA
Sun 2-4		
Castro Valley		
\$1,995,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4:30		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
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\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
Palomares Hills		
\$2,000,000	1440 Elm St	4 BD/2 BA
Open Sun. 2-4		
El Cerrito		
\$2,000,000	6420 Mt. Olympus Dr.	4 BD/2 BA
Sat 1-4		
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The Weekly  
Sales can  
be found in  
the Auto  
Section on  
page D5.

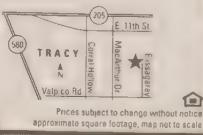
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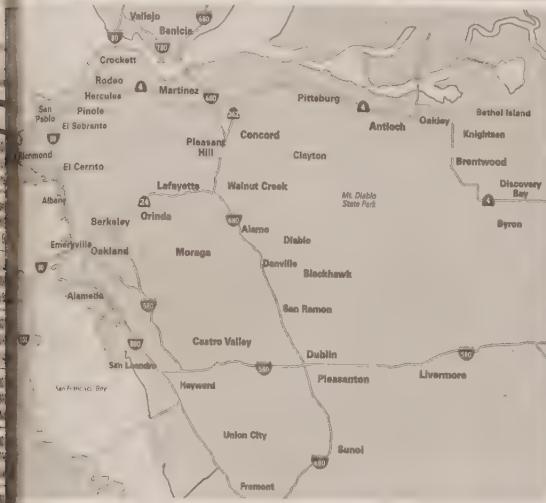
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## Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

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Cerrito		
400	6431 Waldo Ave	2BD/2BA
Mon Sun 1:30-4pm		510-508-5580
Well Banker Bartels-Realtors	Mary Cao	

Emeryville		
4,000	60 Loop 22	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 2-5		510-338-1348
Well Banker	Fritz Hochfellner	

Maywood		
4,000	1256 Stanhope Lane #150	2BD/2BA
Mon Sun 2-4:30		510-339-8400
Well Banker Better Homes	Nader Davari	

Redwood City		
4,000	2555 Compton Ct. #114	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 2-4		510-610-5099
Well Banker & Associates	Sally Han	

San Bruno		
4,000	903 Central Blvd.	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 1-4		510-834-2010
Well Banker	CP Yang	

Menlo Park		
4,000	224 Willamette Avenue	3BD/2BA
Mon Sun 2-4:30		510-339-0400
Well Banker	Judith Ratcliff	

Palo Alto		
4,000	240 Stanford	4BD/2BA
Mon Sun 2-4		510-486-1495
Well Banker	Holly Ross	

Lafayette		
4,000	3399 Woodview Drive	4BD/3BA
Mon Sun 2-4		510-531-7000 x244
Well Banker	Bonnie Leffmann	

Oakland		
4,000	730 29th St., #112	Comm. Condo
Mon Sun 2-4		510-280-2105
Well Banker	Sara Garabedian	

Alameda		
4,000	155 Pearl St., #102	1BA/1BA
Mon Sun 2-4:30pm	Adams Point	510-377-5285
Well Banker	Wen W. Tung	

Berkeley		
4,000	3877 Howe St. #201	1BD/1BA
Mon Sun 2-4:30pm	Piedmont Ave.	510-338-1343
Well Banker	Kathleen Callahan	

Emeryville		
4,000	730 29th St., #109	Studio
Mon Sun 2-4		510-280-2105
Well Banker	Sara Garabedian	

San Leandro		
4,000	673 Cary Ave	1BD/1BA
Mon Sun 10-12	Oakland	510-522-9600
Well Banker	Izabella Lipetski	

Fremont		
4,000	2201 West St	6 Lots
Mon Sun 2-4	Dak Realty	510-280-2105
Well Banker	Sara Garabedian	

Pleasanton		
4,000	3825 High St. #103	2bd/2ba
Mon Sun 1-5	Well Banker	510-339-9290
Well Banker	Erik Johnson	

Walnut Creek		
4,000	594 55th St.	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 1-5	Oak Realty	510-280-2162
Well Banker	Sara Motley	

Berkeley		
4,000	3800 Maybelle Ave. #12	2BD/1.5BA
Mon Sun 1-4	Well Banker	510-346-4112
Well Banker	Tere Lee	

Concord		
4,000	700 10th St.	2BD/2BA
Mon Sun 1-4	Well Banker	510-346-4112
Well Banker	Tere Lee	

Walnut Creek		
4,000	6031 Mauritanian	3BD/1BA
Mon Sun 2-5	Prudential California Realty	925-568-7300
Well Banker	Adam Watts	

Alameda		
4,000	3800 Maybelle Ave. #12	2BD/1.5BA
Mon Sun 1-4	Well Banker	510-346-4112
Well Banker	Tere Lee	

San Bruno		
4,000	594 55th St.	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 1-5	Oak Realty	510-280-2162
Well Banker	Sara Motley	

Pleasanton		
4,000	3800 Maybelle Ave. #12	2BD/1.5BA
Mon Sun 1-4	Well Banker	510-346-4112
Well Banker	Tere Lee	

San Leandro		
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Well Banker	Sara Motley	

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San Bruno		
4,000	594 55th St.	2BD/1BA
Mon Sun 1-5	Oak Realty	510-280-2162
Well Banker	Sara Motley	

San Bruno		


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## ALAMEDA



2207 SAN JOSE AVENUE \$795,000  
Central Alameda Open Saturday 1-4  
Stately Victorian beaming with gingerbread and ornate interior features. All period, all in exquisite condition. Pocket doors, wainscoting and medallions. New roof. Also features a spa.  
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John Selbach 510-748-1170



2137 OTIS DRIVE #121 \$469,500  
St. Francis Open Saturday 2-4  
St. Francis 2 bedroom, 2 bath first floor condo. Close to shopping, beach and more. Hurry won't last long!  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108

Steve DiGiulio 510-748-1171



437 SHEFFIELD ROAD \$719,500  
Sand Piper Cove Open Sat & Sun 2-4  
First time open on this rare one level Sand Piper Cove 2 bedroom, 2 bath with atrium. Low maintenance rear yard fully decked with hot tub and plenty of greenery.  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



3550 DePASSIER WAY \$659,000  
Heritage Open Sat & Sun 2-4  
FIRST TIME OPEN, LIGHT & BRIGHT! 2 bedroom, 2 bath single-level home on Premium Corner Lot! New paint, carpet & appliances; vaulted ceilings, surround sound, granite counters & MORE!!  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Ann Bracci 510-748-1807  
Chih Wu 510-748-1162



311 LAGUNA VISTA AVENUE \$785,000  
Bay View Estates Open Sat & Sun 2-4  
Welcome to this rare one level 2+ bedroom, 2 bath home located on the lagoon in Bay View Estates. New kitchen including appliances, hardwood floors, fireplace and more!  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



339 BROADWAY AVE #205 \$459,500  
Laguna Hacienda Open Sat & Sun 2-4  
Price reduction! Stop by and enjoy this rare 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with lagoon view and many upgrades throughout. Hurry won't last long!  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108

Justin Francis 510-748-1164



1815 BROADWAY \$925,000  
East End Open Sunday 2-4  
Four-Unit income property. End unit is a large 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Close to Bridgeside Center, transportation and the Park Street Market Place. Large lot with plenty of parking.  
[www.gallagherandlindsey.com](http://www.gallagherandlindsey.com)

Troy Staten 510-748-1125

Tom Bennett 510-748-1158

# Gallagher & Lindsey

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## ALAMEDA



2529 EAGLE AVENUE \$925,000  
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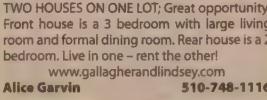
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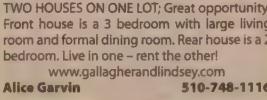
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\* San Leandro

# SPORTS

• Friday, April 14, 2006 •

Section C

## Around the horn

### Lacrosse club drops doubleheader

■ The Skyline Lacrosse Club boys juniors A team suffered back-to-back losses on April 1, as it fell 6-0 to Town School of San Francisco in the first game of a twin bill, and followed with a 4-2 loss to the Red Hawks from the South Bay in the nightcap.

On the plus side, Skyline Lacrosse played well on defense against Town, but struggled passing limited offensive opportunities. Travis Moscone was strong in goal for Skyline Lacrosse with several saves and some aggressive field play. But Town had a big advantage in time of possession.

Skyline Lacrosse shook off that loss to play a better game against the Red Hawks, displaying much higher intensity in the first half, especially. Still, Skyline Lacrosse's defense had more action than the offense. Jeff Hodgkinson and Robby Inch each scored a goal for Skyline Lacrosse. A cold start in the third quarter and several penalties hurt Skyline, and the Red Hawks scored three goals in that quarter.

— Mike McGrehan and the Skyline Lacrosse Club

### Alameda High alumni baseball

■ Alameda High School baseball invites former Hornets players to participate in an alumni-versus-varsity game at Lincoln Park on Saturday, April 22 at noon. Contact Hornets coach Ken Americh at 510-523-2193 or 925-381-5378, or assistant Steve Yamasaki at 510-865-0696 or SYamasaki1@spintPCS.com. Be sure to use a contact phone number.

— Mike McGrehan

### ACCAL rain plans

■ In a meeting on April 6, Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League athletic directors and the league commissioner decided to play two full dates worth of rained out baseball and softball games on May 1 and May 8 respectively, in the order they were originally scheduled. Those would be Games 2 and 3 on the ACCAL schedule. The first set of games (Game No. 1) can be made up at any time. ACCAL commissioner Bill Jones said, "The first priority was to play a full schedule. The second priority was to keep the schedule as balanced as possible," Jones said. On Thursday, the league's athletic directors and Jones were scheduled to meet to discuss the rescheduling of further baseball and softball rainouts. Results of that meeting were not available at press time.

— Phil Jensen

### Ceraldi among best at Arcadia

■ Piedmont High School junior Mark Ceraldi finished fourth in the boys' seeded 1-mile race Saturday at the Arcadia Invitational. The meet is arguably one of the best invitationals in the country. Ceraldi finished the race in 4:20.52. His adjusted 1,600-meter time was 4:18.92. Last year, Ceraldi won the North Coast Section championship in the 1,600 in 4:19.04 and advanced to the California Interscholastic Federation championships. He also led the Highlanders to a first place finish in Division IV at the CIF cross country championships last fall. He took fifth overall.

— Dave Carpenter

### On Deck

■ Berkeley at Alameda, baseball, April 14, 3:30 p.m. — The two-time defending ACCAL champion Yellow Jackets take on the Hornets, who are 3-0 in ACCAL play at press time and hold sole possession of first place in the ACCAL.

■ El Cerrito at Encinal, baseball, April 14, 3:30 p.m. — The Gauchos have not yet played an ACCAL game at press time because of rainouts, and the Jets (1-0 ACCAL) always provide tough competition.

■ Willie Stargell Classic, baseball, April 15-19 — Encinal High School will hold its 15th edition of the tournament at the College of Alameda. All three island baseball teams will be participating along with Acalanes, Campolindo, Foothill, Amador Valley and Newark Memorial. Games begin at 8 a.m. on the first day.

■ Livermore Stampede, softball, April 20-22 — The Hornets will be one of 16 teams competing at the tournament held at Robertson Park in Livermore. Alameda opens against Livermore at 9 a.m. on April 20 and then plays Moreau Catholic later in the day at 1 p.m.

■ Lowell-San Francisco at Piedmont, boys golf, April 18, 3 p.m. — The Highlanders (9-3) host the Cardinals at Claremont Country Club. Derrick Tao led Piedmont with a 3-over 31 at Joe Mortara Golf Course in a 172-197 win over host Salesian.

### Stars of the week

■ Jordan Wilder, St. Mary's baseball — Wilder slammed 12 home runs and drove in all five Panthers runs in a 5-1 win over St. Joseph Notre Dame. He was 2-for-3 in the game.

■ Don Miguel Tufaas, El Cerrito boys volleyball — Tufaas had 12 kills and two blocks in a 25-3, 25-11, 25-14 win over St. Mary's, then had 15 kills and five blocks in a 25-21, 25-16, 25-13 victory over St. Joseph Notre Dame.

■ Laura Cannon, Albany softball — Cannon was 7-for-11 with 11 stolen bases and eight runs scored in three Cougars wins. In a 13-3 victory over Salesian, Cannon was 2-for-4 with four stolen bases and two runs scored. In a 17-0 win over two doubles, four stolen bases, two RBI and four runs scored, in a 15-0 win over St. Joseph Notre Dame, Cannon was 2-for-3 with a double, two runs scored, an RBI and three stolen bases.

## Albany softball finally beats Salesian

■ A nine-run third inning propels the Cougars into a second-place tie in BSAL

By Phil Jensen  
STAFF WRITER

The Albany High School softball team produced an historic victory when it defeated Salesian 13-3 on April 5.

Albany coach Stephanie Vasanheley, a 1999 Salesian graduate, said that "it's probably been at least 12 years since Albany has beat Salesian in softball."

The host Cougars scored nine runs in the third inning to move into a second-place tie with the Chieftains in the Bay Shore Athletic League. At press time, Albany is in first place with a 5-1 league record (6-2 overall).

The Cougars sent 13 to the plate in the third inning, and the game ended 1½ innings later due to the 10-

### HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

run rule. The game was tied at two before the Cougars' offensive explosion in the third.

Sophomore twins Joan and Laura Cannon each had two hits for Albany in the win, and combined for six stolen bases and three runs scored.

■ Albany 15, St. Joseph Notre Dame 0: Sarah Dobjensky fired a three-hitter and the visiting Cougars scored 11 runs in the second inning of this three-inning game on Friday.

Laura Cannon, Amanda Hansen and Leana Petri all had two hits, including doubles, for the Cougars. Petri also had a triple.

■ Berkeley 11, De Anza 0: Sarah Neuhaus fired a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts, and also drove in two runs for host Berkeley (4-2, 1-0 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League at press time) on Monday. Amelia Kurashige-

Elliott had two hits and two RBI for the Yellow Jackets.

### BASEBALL

■ Berkeley 19, De Anza 0: The host Yellow Jackets (1-4-1, 1-1 ACCAL at press time) took a 6-0 lead in the first inning and cruised from there on Monday. Derrick Mitchell was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and two RBI, and teammate Eli Fiddler was 2-for-3 with three runs scored.

■ St. Mary's 5, Albany 3: Marcus Semien slammed a two-run home run in the top of the seventh inning, then the visiting Panthers (5-2, 2-1 BSAL at press time) shut out the Cougars (7-3, 4-2 at press time) in the bottom half of that frame to win on Monday.

Semien was 2-for-3 in the game, and teammate Kevin Cannon was 3-for-4 with a triple and an RBI. Graeme Agate slammed a solo home run in the third inning for Albany and teammate Fred Atkins was 2-for-2 with a run scored.

■ Hercules 2, Berkeley 1: The Ti-

tans' Mike Dolan pitched a two-hitter with nine strikeouts to help the Hercules High School baseball team upset visiting Berkeley 2-1 on April 6.

Dolan also helped his cause at the plate with two triples and two runs scored.

After an RBI by Ellis Clark gave Berkeley a 1-0 lead in the first inning, Hercules rallied with runs in the second and sixth innings.

■ St. Mary's 5, St. Joseph Notre Dame 1: Jordan Wilder slammed two home runs, accounting for all five Panthers runs in the win Saturday.

He hit a two-run shot in the second inning to give St. Mary's a 2-1 lead, and he also ripped a three-run shot in the third inning. Semien pitched a three-hitter with nine strikeouts for the Panthers.

■ Albany 16, Salesian 8: The visiting Cougars pounded out 13 hits in

See PREP, Page 2



BERKELEY HIGH'S Sarah Neuhaus pitches against Pinole Valley in their ACCAL game which ended up being rained out after one inning of play.

## Rain has teams scrambling

■ Local baseball and softball squads look for ways to get their games in

By Phil Jensen  
STAFF WRITER

The record rainy weather has affected many high school spring sports this season. One of those sports is softball, and area coaches and teams are trying to cope.

On Friday, the Berkeley High School squad tried to get in a game with host Pinole Valley, but the competition lasted only one inning as the skies opened up.

"I just think it's really unfortunate," said Berkeley's Amelia Kurashige-Elliott minutes after the game was called. "If these games

keep getting postponed, and we've played less games than everyone else, it won't bode well for us."

Berkeley was finally able to play a game on Monday, its first game since March 24. At press time, the Yellow Jackets' record is 4-2 overall, 1-0 in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

"We had four league games, and they've all been rained out. (Monday) was the first game, and that was a makeup game from two weeks ago," Berkeley coach Ron Hunt said. "It's hurt the hitting and their timing. We aren't hitting as well as we should because we haven't had time to do it in practice, and we haven't had enough games."

Alternatives for practice have needed to be used.

"You can do some things in (the

gym), but you can't bat unless you hit Wiffle balls," Hunt said. "Berkeley does have a practice field, but we haven't been able to get to Grove Park, where we play our home games, until last Thursday. The outfield still is squishy, but the infield is fine. We just have to get the games in."

Albany, amazingly, has been able to get games in. The Cougars lead the Bay Shore Athletic League with a 5-1 record. Only St. Joseph Notre Dame (0-6) has also been able to play six league games in the BSAL this season.

"We have some good parents that have been helping out to keep our home field playable," Albany coach Stephanie Vasanheley said. Also, if the opportunity presents itself, the team plays. She gave the example of last

Thursday, when good weather was forecasted so the team hosted Holy Names and got a game in.

But the weather is still taking its toll on the Cougars.

"The girls are getting tired of being inside and practice is getting monotonous," Vasanheley said. "When it comes to game day, they get a little too anxious. The first inning is when we struggle most. They just want to play."

The St. Mary's team also wants to play. The Panthers haven't played a game since March 22, an 11-0 win over St. Elizabeth.

"It's been a bumper year, not only for games but practices," said St. Mary's coach Helmut Tutass about the weather. "We're not like a lot of schools who have fields, so we are at the mercy of the city."

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail [sports@cttimes.com](mailto:sports@cttimes.com) to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501(c)3 to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

#### BASEBALL

■ EBBA Powerhouse — Tryouts for 10U team at a date, time and location to be determined. For more information call Darrell Ard, 510-691-2049 or e-mail, [coachdarrell\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:coachdarrell_8@hotmail.com).

#### BASKETBALL

■ Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp — Final applications are now being evaluated. By invitation only. Boys and girls, ages 10-19, are eligible. College basketball scholarships are possible for play-

ers selected to the All-American Team. More than 15 camp locations across the nation. For a free brochure, call 704-373-0873 any time.

■ Youth Basketball Tournament — North American Youth Sports annual Spring Youth Basketball Tournament in the Sacramento area has openings. The tournament will be May 19-21 at Mira Loma High School. Features 10 different brackets, ranging from 5th and 6th grade students to 11th and 12th grade students. Entry fee: \$125, guarantees each team a minimum of two games. Awards presented in each bracket. Entry deadline: April 28. Hotline: 800-787-3265 or Jeff Wise, tournament director, 916-782-5877.

■ Youth basketball camp — Camp for boys and girls entering grades 4-9 in the fall, June 20-23, Alameda High School, 2201 Encinal Ave. Sponsored by Alameda High School girls and boys basketball.

\$125, plus \$25 deposit, before May 1; \$150, plus \$25 deposit, after May 1. Boys signups: Allen Nakamura, 510-823-6477. Girls signups: Brad Thomas, 510-521-5311.

■ North American Youth Sports — Openings remain in the team's second spring youth basketball tournament (May 12-14) at Alameda High School in Oakland. Need boys and girls, grades 5-12. Entry fee: \$125; guarantees each team a minimum of two games. Entry deadline, April 21. Details and entry forms: 800-787-3265 or Curtis Cooper, 510-414-3570.

■ Adidas Jr. Phenom Camp Boys Division — April 15 and 16, Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo. For boys in 5th-8th grades. \$150 per player. Registration: Brian Gaither, 510-860-9973, e-mail [gaithbrian123@aol.com](mailto:gaithbrian123@aol.com).

#### CHEERLEADING

■ Albany Bobcats Youth Football — Registration for players and cheerleaders, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 22, Dave's Dugout, 863 San Pablo Ave., Albany. Open to ages 7-14. Cheerleading groups forming now. Bobcats will play in the Pop Warner program as part of the Redwood Empire Junior Football Conference. National championships in both football and cheer played in Orlando. 510-528-7055. [www.albanyfootball.com](http://www.albanyfootball.com).

#### FOOTBALL

■ Football Performance Camp 2006 — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 10. For ages 13-18. Registration due by June 1. Call for location. 955-205-1883.

■ Albany Bobcats Youth Football — Registration for players and cheerleaders,

See CALENDAR, Page 2

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Deer Valley	8-1	P Matthew North (4-0) won Wolverines' past three games entering this week
2.	Monte Vista	5-1	Cassady, Mustangs win showdown with Rowse, Amador Valley
3.	Acalanes	9-1	Dons back on winning track, alone atop DFAL standings entering this week
4.	California	4-1	At long last: Grizzlies back in action, pick up a pair of EBAL wins
5.	Clayton Valley	8-2	Eagles drop a 1-0 decision to surprising Pittsburg team
6.	Foothill	8-2	Wind blowing out in Pleasanton leads to slugfest, loss vs. Cal
7.	Alameda	7-3	Six straight wins and counting for the Hornets entering this week
8.	Amador Valley	5-2	Dons defense costs them in loss to Monte Vista
9.	Dublin	7-2	Gael's have won three straight DFAL games
10.	Pinole Valley	5-1	Unluck of the Irish: Spartans had not played since St. Patrick's Day entering this week

Also receiving votes: Encinal (6-2). The baseball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is compiled by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Results are through Saturday.

## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Freedom	6-0	History maker: Williams' three straight perfect games ties state record
2.	Newark Memorial	11-0	Unbeaten regular season isn't out of the question for Cougars
3.	Foothill	5-1	Falcons start EBAL campaign by shutting out California, Monte Vista
4.	Monte Vista	4-2	Losses to Newark Memorial, Foothill are by a combined three runs
5.	California	5-1	Rebounds from loss to Foothill by blanking Granada 2-0
6.	Pinole Valley	4-1	Plays one inning against Berkeley before rain postpones game
7.	Concord	4-1	Minutemen take DFAL lead with win over College Park
8.	San Ramon Valley	4-1	Wins over Granada and Livermore give Wolves first place in EBAL
9.	James Logan	5-1	Had four games in five days scheduled this week
10.	Alhambra	4-1	Looking to gain momentum going into Livermore Stampede

Also receiving votes: Benicia (5-2), Berean Christian (7-1), College Park (4-1). The softball poll incorporates all East Bay high schools and is voted on by the staff of Contra Costa Newspapers. Records are through Saturday.

## Prep

FROM PAGE 1

the game, and scored seven runs in the third inning to take control of this BSAL matchup on April 5. Jon Pirkle slammed a three-run home run and went 3-for-5 in the game with two runs scored and five RBI. Atkins, Carleton Steudeman and Zach Babitt all had two hits for the Cougars.

## BOYS TRACK &amp; FIELD

St. Mary's 107, St. Elizabeth 9; St. Mary's 99, Salesian 10: The Panthers' Matt Duffy won three events and teammates Adisa Stewart and Brandon Harris each won two to help host St. Mary's win the double-dual meet on April 6.

Duffy won the 1,600 meters in 4:40.33 seconds, the 800 (2:04.64) and the 3,200 (10:18).

Stewart won the 100 high hurdles (16:43) and the long jump (18 feet, 7 1/2 inches). Harris claimed the 400 (53.34) and the 200 (23.02).

Pinole Valley 88, Hercules 42, El Cerrito 18, De Anza 14: El Cerrito received a second-place finish from Jermel Black in the shot put (29-1) and a third-place finish from Jerome Guss in the 200 (23.52) at Hercules on April 5.

## GIRLS TRACK &amp; FIELD

St. Mary's 107, St. Elizabeth 1; St. Mary's 77, Salesian 33: Lauren Lopez won two events to help the host Panthers defeat the Mustangs and the Chieftains. Lopez took first in the long jump (16:4%) and the triple jump (36-7).

Hercules 82, El Cerrito 16, De Anza 0, Pinole Valley 0: The Gauchos' Breanna White won the shot put (28-4%) and teammate Destiney McGill was third in the 200 (28.09).

## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

El Cerrito d. St. Mary's: The host Gauchos defeated the Pan-

thers 25-3, 25-11, 25-14 at Portola Middle School on April 6.

Senior Michael Hudley had 16 service points, five kills and four digs, and teammate Don Miguel Tutash added 12 kills and two blocks for El Cerrito. Teammate Ramon Herrera had 10 service points and 21 assists.

St. Mary's also fell to Salesian 25-11, 25-5, 25-9 on Tuesday.

## El Cerrito d. St. Joseph Note Dame

Dame: The host Gauchos improved to 17-5 overall with a 25-21, 25-16, 25-13 victory over the Pilots on Monday. Tutash

slammed 15 kills and had five blocks, and Herrera passed for 26 assists. Teammate Robert Dufala had 14 service points.

St. Mary's 107, Salesian 40:

Alex Cushing won three individual events to lead the Panthers in this meet on April 6 at Encinal. Cushing took first in the 200-yard freestyle (2:07.84), the 500 freestyle (5:55.15) and the 100 backstroke (1:09.13).

St. Patrick-St. Vincent 98, Al-

bany 72: Alex Tran won two events for the Cougars in this BSAL meet at Cunningham Pool in Vallejo on April 6. Tran took first in the 200 individual medley (2:12.53) and the 100 freestyle (51.64).

## GIRLS SWIMMING

St. Mary's 87, Salesian 83:

Raquel Yates and Kim Holland won the 100 freestyle and 500

freestyle respectively to help the Panthers edge the Chieftains at Encinal on April 6. Yates produced a time of 1:10.46 in the 100 freestyle, and Holland was clocked at 6:45.68 in the 500

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Hercules 167, Berkeley 167, Pinole Valley 176, Alameda 178:

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# Your East Bay Auto Experts

**BERKELEY BOB'S**  
YOUR VOLVO & TOYOTA SPECIALISTS

## Ask the expert:

**Question:** Lately my car has been feeling rough on the road what could the problem be?

**Answer:** The most common cause for rough riding is worn out tires.

Have all the tires checked. We see lots of tires purchased at warehouses that have the tread separate when only a few months old. It may seem like you have been buying tires frequently however it may be that you've been buying one at a time which is not a good practice. You could end up with four different brands, different tread pattern tires which causes pull. Try and replace all your tires at one time or at the least two at a time. With our roads, it's a good idea to have the tires balanced and your alignment checked once a year.

Another reason the car may be feeling rough are the struts and shocks. If your car is over 60,000 miles then there will be some wear on these components. Have a professional check them and advise you. The struts are made to last a long time and first exhibit wear around 60,000 miles and gradually continue to deteriorate over a period of many miles. Some technicians feel they should stay good for 150,000 miles. Shocks on the other hand are usually worn out by 60,000 miles and should be replaced. If you carry a lot of weight in your car then replace them sooner. Most of the time when talking struts and shocks it's a comfort, not a safety issue. You drive the car on a daily basis so it's your call.

Worn suspension bushings also contribute to rough riding vehicles. Most bushings are made of rubber and wear based on age not mileage. Again, you should have an expert examine the bushings and let you know. These are usually inexpensive and make major improvements to your car's handling for the least amount of money.

Are you happy with the ride your car provides you with? If not consider having a complete inspection and test drive performed to determine if replacing struts or bushings would affect your car's ride.

I hope this answers some of the questions you have regarding rough riding.

From: Melissa Holmes, Owner, Bob's Volvo-Toyota Specialists



## Bob's Volvo-Toyota Specialists

Located in Berkeley for over 20 years, we specialize in the repair and maintenance of Volvo and Toyota automobiles. We have been awarded the ASE Blue Seal of Excellence, our entire staff is ASE-certified, and we are an Alameda County Green Business dedicated to preserving the environment with our daily conservation practices. We are equipped with VIDA, which allows us to diagnose, download software and reprogram 1999 and later Volvos. We offer same-day service, discount car rentals, a local shuttle and a level of personal service that is rarely seen these days.

We invite you to give us the opportunity to serve you. Please see our web site for special promotions.

[www.berkeleybobs.com](http://www.berkeleybobs.com)  
Bob's Volvo-Toyota Specialists  
2705 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley  
Phone 510.548.7140

**NIPPON**  
EUROPEAN MOTORS

## Ask the expert:

**Question:** When do I check the tires and the safety of my car?

**Answer:**

**Tires** - You should check tire pressure regularly, at least once a month. If you don't have a tire pressure gauge it is worth your money to buy one. The maximum pressure listed on tires is NOT the proper pressure! You can find the recommended tire pressure for your tires in the owner's manual or on the tire pressure placard. You should rotate your tires at every second oil change because it will insure that all the tires wear equally. Do you feel vibration at cruising speed? If you feel vibration you should have your tires balanced. There is a safe limit to tread wear; if the tire is worn below this limit it is unsafe to drive. Refer to mechanical inspection results. Uneven tire wear indicates an alignment problem.

Improper alignment causes increased wear of tire and suspension components and poor handling. In worst cases, improper alignment may throw your car into a skid, especially on a wet road. If your car pulls to one side, wanders, or feels unstable on the road, have the alignment checked. A proper alignment will improve your car's handling and make your ride more enjoyable.

**Regular mechanical inspection** - For your safety, I recommend that you have your car inspected at least once a year by a qualified mechanic. I mean not just a visual inspection by one of the fast lube places, but a mechanic that can lift your car and check major components such as brakes, suspension, etc., while having your tires rotated, for example. Many components such as ball joints cannot be inspected visually and require a lift to be properly checked.

Answer: From Tom Inthawong at NIPPON European Motors



## NIPPON European Motors

NIPPON European Motors has all the latest equipment to keep your car running its best. Owner Tom Inthawong has operated this business in Albany since 1983 and has spent thousands of dollars in new equipment and computer software to keep up-to-date with trends and issues in automotive repair. Tom's entire crew of mechanics attends several training sessions throughout the year. All are ASE-certified and trained in vehicle electrical systems, antilock brakes and advanced engine performance. To provide a superior level of service, we will work on your car only after we do an in-house investigation of any recalls that exist on that vehicle. We provide a high level of service at a reasonable cost to provide you with a satisfying repair or inspection experience. After all, we have been an honor roll member of the BBB for many years running. Drop-off service available always. Shuttle service available on a case-by-case basis.

Acura and Lexus specialists. NIPPON European Motors.

730 San Pablo Ave., Albany

Phone 510.527.2443

**East Bay Auto Experts Publishes Weekly in  
7 Newspapers Call 510.748.1223**



# Events

## COMEDY

### EAST BAY IMPROV —

"Tired of the Same Old Song and Dance," Ongoing. 8 p.m. An evening of improvised comedy. First Saturday of each month. \$8.

Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tenent Ave., Pinole. (510) 964-0571, [www.eastbayimprov.com](http://www.eastbayimprov.com).

### PARAMOUNT THEATRE —

"The 20th Anniversary Bay Area Black Comedy Competition and Festival Final Round," April 15, 8 p.m. Hosted by 1995 champ "D.C." Curry, comedians will compete for \$5,000 in cash, bookings and prizes in front of a crowd of nearly 3,000. \$35.50-\$45.50.

2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400, (415) 421-8497, [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

### BERKELEY OPERA —

"Chrysalis," April 22 through April 30, Berkeley Opera, in collaboration with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, presents the world premiere of Clark Suprynowicz and John O'Keefe's opera "Chrysalis." Artistic Director Jonathan Khuner conducting.

**SUNG IN ENGLISH.** The opera takes a dramatic look at cosmetic surgery and genetic manipulation. April 22 and April 28, 8 p.m.; April 26, 7:30 p.m.; April 30, 2 p.m. \$10-\$40.

\$16 to \$40 general; \$20 seniors; \$15 youth; \$10 students. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2460 College Ave., Berkeley. Info: (510) 841-1903, Tickets: (925) 798-1300, [www.berkeleyopera.org](http://www.berkeleyopera.org).

**CAL PERFORMANCES** — All performances in Zellerbach Hall unless otherwise noted.

Kristian Zimmerman, Piano, April 23, 3 p.m. Celebrated Polish pianist Kristian Zimmerman performs a recital. \$34-\$58.

Zellerbach Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 642-9888, [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY —

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, April 22 and April 23, Nicholas McGegan conducting. Featured artists: Lynne Dawson, soprano; Mary Phillips mezzosoprano; Ian Paton, tenor; and Andrew Foster-Williams, bass-baritone. The program titled "Ode to Joy" includes works of Beethoven and Cannabich. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$56.

2345 Channing Way, Berkeley.

**MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC** — Concerts take place in the Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

Iwan Llewellyn-Jones, Piano, April 15, 8 p.m. The program will feature works of Beethoven, Ravel, Franck and Liszt. \$10-\$20.

Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 430-2296, [www.mills.edu](http://www.mills.edu).

**OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY** — April 21, 8 p.m. Michael Morgan conducting. Featured soloist: Karla Donehew, violin. The program includes works of Mozart, Stenhammar and Ravel.

\$15 to \$60. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 625-8497, (415) 421-8497, [www.oeps.org](http://www.oeps.org).

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY —**

California Bach Society, April 21, 8 p.m. Suzanne Elder Wallace conducting. The program will feature Claudio Monteverdi's "Missa In illo tempore." \$10-\$25.

2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

**TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERTS —**

"A Celebration of the Music of Walter Gieseking," April 22, 8 p.m. Frank

Johnson, with musicians including flutist Diane Grubbe and others, will present a once in a lifetime evening of Gieseking's chamber and vocal works.

\$12 general; \$8 seniors, disabled persons and students. Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. (510) 549-3864, [www.trinitychamberconcerts.com](http://www.trinitychamberconcerts.com).

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERTS —**

"Chamber Music," April 14, 12:15 p.m.-1 p.m. Music majors perform chamber music as part of their performance studies. Free.

"Javanese Music and Dance," April 22, 8 p.m. Gamelan Sari Saras performs. Directed by Midyanto and Benjamin Brinner. \$7-\$10.

University of California Alumni Chorus, April 23, 7 p.m. The program titled "It takes two" features works by Brahms, New Liebeslieder and Orlando di Lasso. Director of the U.C. Choral Ensembles Mark Summer conducting. \$10-\$15.

**UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE**, April 23, 3 p.m. Music Director Robert Calonico conducting. The program will feature music by Ticheli, Cichy, Grainger, as well as the world premiere of Dale McGowan's "Irrational Exuberance." \$3-\$10.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley, College Avenue and Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 642-4864, <http://music.berkeley.edu>.

## DANCE

### ASHKENAZ —

Odile Lavault and The Baguette Quartette, April 14, 9 p.m. 8:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$11-\$13.

Bruce and Lloyd's Tri Tip Trio, April 18, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance lesson. \$9.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054, [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com).

### EIGHTH STREET STUDIOS —

"Dance-a-Rama," April 23, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Join 15 East Bay choreographers for an informal performance marathon in celebration of National Dance Week. Free.

2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. (510) 527-8119.

**HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY, VALLEY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS —**

"Groove," April 15, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. A high-energy hip hop workshop and dance showcase featuring dance groups Funk Beyond Control, Culture Shock Oakland and the ShockCollaboration, Gen2 and D.C. Production Workshop Dancers. \$10-\$20.

Holy Names University, 3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland.

**MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER —**

"Social Dance Nocturne," April 22, 5 p.m.-9 p.m. An evening composed of four different one-hour dance classes, from Tango to Chicago Steppin'. Free.

1428 Alice St., Oakland.

**MILLS COLLEGE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC** — Concerts take place in the Concert Hall unless otherwise noted.

"Four Choreographers, One Connection," April 21 through April 23, 8 p.m. An evening of original choreography by Sonya Delwaide, Molissa Fenley, June Watanabe and Anne Westwick with music by cellist Joan Jeanrenaud and percussionist Wille Winant. Featured dance artists: Frak Shaw, Yukie Fujimoto, Erin Mel-Ling Stuart and Molissa Fenley's dance company. Director of Music for the Dance Department Judy Rosenberg will perform her original score for "Le Voyage dans la Lune (A Trip to the Moon)," as a prelude to the dance performance. \$12-\$15.

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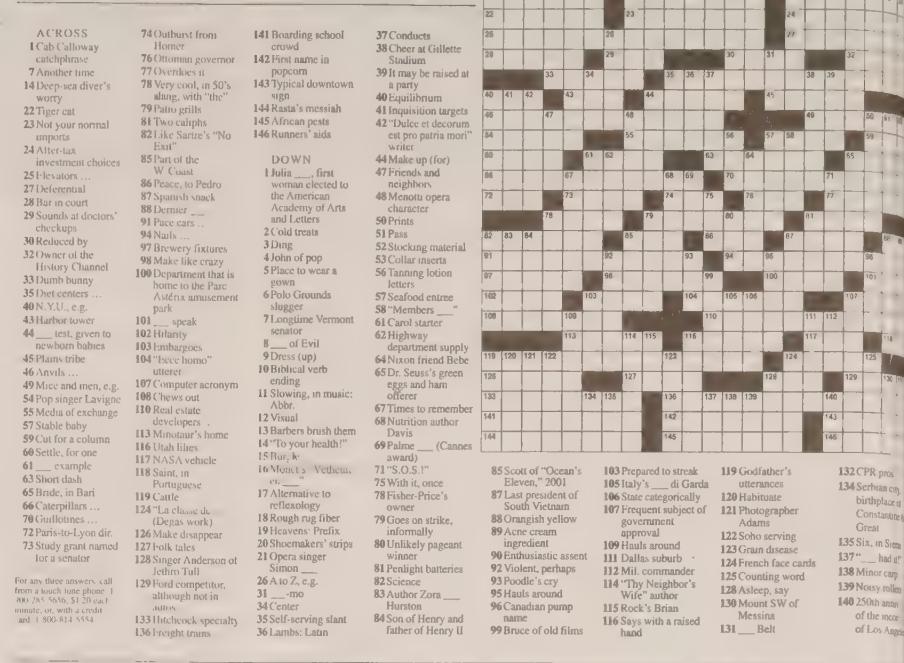
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## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

STOCK MARKET REPORT By PAULA GAMACHE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ



nd around Lake Chabot, with 2,000 feet of climbing. Meet 5 p.m. in the parking lot across the public safety offices at Lake in Castro Valley. Reservations \$10. (510) 727-0613.

ky Wednesday 'Outer' East Bay Ongoing. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. Some of the outer East Bay each week, such as Wild Cat Bronx, Mount Diablo, and Joaquin Miller Redwood. Place and ride location vary. Reservations required. (510) 888-

110) 466-5123, [www.btcbe.org](http://www.btcbe.org).

COVE VISITOR CENTER — Ongoing. At Crab Cove, you can see water creatures and go San Francisco Bay from a boat. You can also travel back in Alameda's past. The goal is enhance understanding of the environmental importance of San Francisco Bay and the ocean ecosystem. Cove's Indoor Aquarium and Lab is one of the largest aquariums in the East Bay.

EVENTS — "Beach Clean

through April 22. Lend a hand, community service hours, and the Bay shoreline safer for

the beach. Bring gloves and wear

clothes. March 25 and April 1,

4 p.m.; April 22, noon-1 p.m.

at Las Trampas, April 16, 8

1 a.m. Hike through chemise

and oak for breathtaking

and much more. Ages 7 and

upwards. April 18 and April 25,

10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Enjoy an exploration of the

world and theme related

Registration required. \$4.

651-6887.

Earth Day Festival," April

1-4 p.m. Enjoy games,

science exhibits and entertain-

ment learn how you can help

the planet Earth. At Wash-

er Park.

of Lake Chabot," April 23, 9

p.m. Enjoy a physical chal-

lenge and explore Lake Chabot's

on this 9-mile hike. Ages 14+

and older. Bring a sack lunch and

drinks otherwise noted; parking

will be charged. 1252 McKay

Yamada. (510) 521-6887,

bparks.org.

MUIR HOUSE AND GAR-

HISTORIC ESTATE — Ong-

ing. Nestled in the Oakland

50-acre Dunsmuir House

lands estate includes the 37-

eclassical Revival Dunsmuir

built by coal and lumber

Alexander Dunsmuir for his

restored outbuildings set

and landscaped gardens surround the mansion.

ESTATE GROUNDS — ongoing.

Self-Guided Grounds Tours are available year around. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public for walking

Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Booklets and maps of the

grounds are available at the Dinkel-

sip House. Free.

Dunsmuir House and Gardens, 2960

Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (510)

615-5555, [www.dunsmuir.org](http://www.dunsmuir.org).

GREENBELL ALLIANCE OUTINGS

— A series of hikes, bike rides and

events sponsored by Greenbell Al-

liance, the Bay Area's non-profit land

conservation and urban planning or-

ganization. Call for meeting places.

Reservations required for all trips.

ALAMEDA COUNTY —

"Self-Guided Urban Outing: Berke-

ley," Ongoing. This interactive smart

growth walking tour of central Berke-

ley examines some of the exciting

projects that help alleviate the hous-

ing shortage in the city as well as

amenities important to making a livable

community. The walk, which in-

cludes the GAIA Cultural Center, At-

lston Oak Court, The Berkeley Bike

Station, University Terrace and

Strawberry Creek Park, takes be-

tween an hour and a half to two

hours at a leisurely pace. Download

the itinerary which gives specific di-

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# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu



## Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

Seafood/Prime Rib/Steak/Lobster/Cocktail

## EASTER SUNDAY SPECIAL

### Dinner Menu

Served 3:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
No Price Increase



### Easter Honey Baked Ham or Roast Lamb

Soup or Salad & Dessert

### Lunch

### Brunch Menu

Served 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Grand Opening of our new location  
Monday May 1st  
Located at Balena Bay, Alameda**

**Same Great Staff & Service!  
Looking forward to seeing all our Dining friends there!**

## Exciting Exotic

JAPANESE CUISINE AND SPIRITS



**KAMAKURA**  
2549 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda  
510.521.9121

### Juanita's

1324 Park Street, Alameda (510) 865-2588

Juanita's has been serving home style Mexican cooking since 1975 to generations of Bay Area diners. Patrons enjoy a margarita or cold cerveza at Juanita's with their choice of delicious Mexican appetizers and entrees. Including everyone's favorite - tacos, enchiladas, and fajitas. AC \$\$ FB W

### Kamakura

2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (510) 521-9121

Faith Yamato and the chefs of Kamakura present SHARI, the highest quality of rice that envelopes Sushi. The best short grain premium rice available in the USA is used for Kamakura's Sushi. The "Tamanishiki" brand of rice definitely provides the decisive edge in Sushi quality and taste. Following centuries-old Japanese culinary practice, the rice is gently steamed, then seasoned with a aged-vinegar blend, and carefully fanned to cool to achieve the perfect, firm, yet moist texture, pliable but not sticky; there is no shortcut. For authentic, delectable Sushi and original Japanese creations, dine-in, take-out and party catering, visit or contact Kamakura Restaurant, 2549 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, (510) 521-9121. Wheelchair access, accepting Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover. Open for Lunch Mon. - Sat. 11:30-2:30; Dinner served daily 5pm-10pm.

### Montclair Bistro

6118 Medau Place, Montclair Village, (510) 482-8282

Chef Henry Vortrieide's philosophy of his restaurant, Montclair Bistro, is Matrix Cuisine, which he finds is "a synergy between the food on the table, the art on the walls, and the ambience of the restaurant. The result is a feeling of comfort and harmony between the food and the surroundings." The Bistro's cuisine is Creative California with a French Flair and offers gourmet delicacies for even the most discriminating palate. The dining experience is enhanced with a full bar and more than 150 wines and Vintage Ports. Montclair Bistro offers lunch, dinner, Happy Hour and Sunday Brunch. Please visit our ad for hours of operation. Reservations are recommended but not required. Visit [www.montclairbistro.com](http://www.montclairbistro.com).

### Sophia Cafe

1247 Solano Ave., Albany (510) 526-8663

Sophia Cafe is a tiny haven for Mideast food. Owner Mori Dagan makes entrees and baked goods with a personal touch. For dinner enjoy schnitzel, mousakka (sliced eggplant dish with ground beef) or the couscous plate. Finish with a delightful dessert made in-house. For a limited time, enjoy early bird specials for only \$7.95. Offer valid only with mention of ad from 5-9pm. Take out and catering menus available upon request. Open Sun-Fri 11-9pm.

### La Pinata 3

1440 Park St., Alameda (510) 769-9111

La Pinata 3 has been indulging the Bay Area since 1978 with authentic, delicious Mexican cuisine. In 2005, La Pinata 3 introduced their Taco Bar, offering authentic Mexican tacos prepared the old-fashioned way, with traditional ingredients. In addition to Pinata 3's impressive menu, including Albondigas (meat ball soup), traditional Mexican breakfasts, and the famous Whole Red Snapper, delectable homemade pastries (déserts) and after dinner drinks are not to be missed. Perhaps most impressive about La Pinata 3 is the popular Tequila Bar. Serving the largest variety of 100% Agave tequilas in Alameda, and perhaps the entire East Bay, the tequila bar at La Pinata 3 is guaranteed to turn you in to a return guest. La Pinata 3 is open daily from 7am to 3am, and Happy Hour is from 4-7pm M-F. Weekend Specials and a \$9.50 Sunday Brunch are also available [www.lapinata.com](http://www.lapinata.com). (Look for La Pinata #6 opening mid-August in Concord with 2 tequila bars!)

## Sophia Cafe

### A MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

11-9 every day except Saturday

**Early Bird  
\$9.95  
Expires 4/30/06**

1247 Solano Avenue, Albany  
(510) 526-8663

**THE BAR IS NOW READY  
TO SHAKE & STIR**

Happy Hours 4-7 pm, Wed.-Sat.

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER - BRUNCH

Contemporary American Bistro Cuisine

Seafood - Steaks - Pasta

Heavy Entrees \$12 - \$22

\$5 Sangrias - \$6 Cocktails - \$8 Wine Tasting Flights

**CAFE & BAR**

2735 Broadway (cross st. 27th)  
Oakland, CA 94612  
[www.zcafeandbar.com](http://www.zcafeandbar.com)

510.663.2905

**La Pinata 3**  
Mexican Restaurant  
& Tequila Bar  
[www.lapinata.com](http://www.lapinata.com)

1440 Park Street  
Alameda, CA  
510.769.9110

Open Daily 7AM-3AM

Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-6PM

Café & Taco Bar

Open Daily from 7AM-10PM

To Advertise on this Special  
Dining Page Contact Betty Brown  
(510) 748-1221



### ZZA's Trattoria

552 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA (510) 839-9124

Billed as a "Simple Italian Restaurant" ZZA's may be modest but serves spectacularly tasty fare and is a fun, family-friendly restaurant. Be sure and order the whole dungeness crab roasted in a brick oven, seasoned with cracked pepper, butter, fresh herbs and served over house made trentina pasta for only \$32. ZZA's is affordable, friendly and comfortable and offers a mix of salads, pastas, calzones, and thin-crust individual pizzas; and much of the pasta is made by hand. They're also known for the huge ZZA's sign in back that flashes dancing lights - red and white, framed in green neon. It comes on whenever they feel like it - when somebody has a birthday, when somebody drops a dish and breaks it. The tradition is, one of the servers calls, "Lights, please," and the customers cheer and they clap. Your kids will love it, and you won't have to sacrifice your own tastes to indulge them. House specialties include Maiiale, a Niman Ranch spice coated Porterhouse steak with apple beurre blanc mashed potatoes and snap peas or the Pesce del Giorno A.Q. Lunch is served Tuesday through Sunday from 11-3pm; Dinner is Sunday through Thursday from 5 to 10pm and Friday and Saturdays from 5 to 11 pm.

Watertwise Gardening Tour, third Thursday and the following Saturday and Sunday of every month, 1:30 p.m. Free.

Sick Plant Clinic, first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to noon. A plant pathologist and his team of experts will diagnose what ails your plant. Free.

\$5 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 children ages 3 to 18; free on the first Thursday of every month. Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed the first Tuesday of every month for maintenance. UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, (510) 643-2755, <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu>.

WHEELER AUDITORIUM AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY — "The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour," April 19 through April 20, 7 p.m. Experience adventure filmmaking at its best with award-winning adventure films and videos from the 2005 festival in Banff, Alberta. \$16.

UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley.

#### POPULAR MUSIC

924 GILMAN ST. — All ages welcome.

Funeral Shock, Blown to Bits, Fatality, E.M.D.C., April 14. \$6.

Babyland, 8-Bit, Ninja Academy, The Mormons, Graffiti Death Camp, April

15. \$7.

Deadfall, Formaldehyde Junkies, I Object, Sabertooth Zombie, Gnar, April 21. \$6.

Internal Affairs, Blue Monday, Miles Away, Panic, Right On, Baader Brains, April 22. \$7.

Look Back & Laugh, 108, Lights Out, Gather, April 23, 5 p.m. \$8.

\$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows start Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, (510) 525-9926, [www.924gilman.org](http://www.924gilman.org).

ALBATROSS PUB — Whiskey Brothers, Ongoing. Old-time and bluegrass. First and third Wednes-

days of every month. Free.

Kurt Ribak Jazz Group, April 22. \$3.

Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 843-2473, [www.albatrosspub.com](http://www.albatrosspub.com).

#### ASHKENAZ —

Odile Lavault and The Baguette Quartette, April 14, 9 p.m. 8:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$11-\$13.

Reggae Angels, April 15, 9:30 p.m. \$11-\$13.

Urban Achievers, The Castrati, Built for the Sea, The Rage, Dear Indigo, April 16, 5:30 p.m. \$8.

Bruce and Lloyd's Tri Tip Trio, April 18, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance lesson. \$9.

Jules Broussard, April 20, 8:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.: Dance lesson. \$10.

Caribbean Allstars, April 21, 9:30 p.m. \$11-\$13.

Wild Catahoula, April 22, 9 p.m. \$11-\$13.

1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 525-6054, [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com).

#### DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT —

Glenn Walters Trio, April 14. Steve Heckman and Gini Wilson, April 15.

# THE DINING GUIDE

## Featured Menu

### Happy Easter from Café Enrico

875 Island Dr.  
Alameda  
522-0129

Café Enrico  
Italian Restaurant

#### DINNER MENU

**Soup:** Cream of Watercress  
Or

**Salad:** Mixed baby greens with Pacific Shrimps and Walnuts in House Dressing

#### ENTREES

• Roasted Cornish Hen	\$18.95
With rice & mushroom ragout	
• Monkfish Oscar	\$21.95
Dungeness Crab meat, asparagus and Bearnaise sauce	
• Dungeness Crab Cake with Grilled Jumbo Prawns	\$21.95
Tarragon cream sauce	
• Grilled Angus Filet of Beef	\$26.95
Savoy spinach, shitake mushroom & Red Wine	
• Roasted Rack of Lamb	\$26.95
With garlic mashed potatoes and a Thyme sauce	



#### EASTER BUFFET

**\$19.95**

**\$9.95 for children under 12**  
**\$7.95 for children under 7**  
(10am to 2pm)

#### SALAD

Caesar Salad with Pacific Shrimps  
Tropical Fruit Platters  
Garden Vegetable Salad with House-made dressing  
Chicken Orzo Salad  
Prawn Cocktail

#### BREAKFAST

French Toast with Pecan Syrup  
Honey glazed Ham and Italian Sausage  
Dungeness Crab Benedict  
Norwegian Smoked Salmon Spread  
Texas House-made potatoes  
Scramble Eggs  
Orange-Cranberry Scone



#### ENTREE

Baked Veal Lasagna  
Fried Chicken Salerno  
Prime Rib

Baked Salmon with Dill-Cream Sauce  
Portobello Mushroom Ravioli with Pesto Cream Sauce

#### ASSORTED DESSERTS

#### UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

875 Island Dr., Alameda  
Harbor Bay Landing

**Happy Easter**  
from Café Enrico  
**Easter Luncheon Buffet**

**\$19.95**

**10AM-2PM**

Please Call (510) 522-0129 for Reservation



**1332 C Park St**  
**510-748-0278**

**Down the Brick Willoway**

#### An Alameda Tradition!

Award-Winning Food - Warm Service  
Senior Wednesdays & Family Saturdays  
Holiday Banquet Facilities  
Catering, Banquet, Dine In and Take Out



# El Caballo



#### MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Authentic Mexican Dining

with view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon

**50% OFF**

Purchase one entree and receive 50% OFF second entree (of equal or lesser value).

Offer exp. 4/30/06

891-B Island Dr., Alameda

**TEL (510) 521-4032**

**KATSU**  
SUSHI  
Lunch  
Mon-Fri 11:30-2:30pm  
Sat & Sun 12:00-3:00pm  
Dinner  
Mon-Thur & Sun 5-9:30pm  
Fri & Sat 5-10pm  
(510) 749-8461  
1465 Webster Street, Alameda  
Reservations Recommended



**Sushi House**  
japanese restaurant & sushi bar  
Beautiful Alameda Location Overlooking Water

**Business Hours**  
Sunday - Thursday  
From 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM  
Friday & Saturday  
From 11:00 AM to 10:30 PM

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda, California 94501  
[www.e-sushihouse.com](http://www.e-sushihouse.com)

**510-865-0999**  
fax: 510-865-2404

Avoid waiting! Fax in your order in advance!



## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

## Legal Notice

## NOTICE OF

PETITION  
TO ADMINISTER  
ESTATE OF:RUTH HENDERSON  
BILLARD  
CASE NUMBER:

RP0625515

To all beneficiaries, creditors, heirs, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate of the above-named RUTH HENDERSON BILLARD.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by WARD BILLARD, Esq., in the Superior Court of Alameda County of CALIFORNIA.

THE PETITION requests the probate of the above-named will, and the appointment of a personal representative to administer the estate of the deceased.

THE PETITION requests the court to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This attorney is not a personal representative to take many actions with the court without court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived the notice requirement in the proposed action.) The Independent Administration of Estates Act is granted unless an interested person files an objection. The court will show cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 4/25/06 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept. 23, located at 1221 Oak St., OAKLAND.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing or file written objections with the court before the date of hearing or appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR of a decedent, you must file your claim with the court and copy it to the personal representative appointed by the court within 90 days from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in the California Probate Code. The creditor filing claims will not expire for four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice for the examination of inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any particular asset as provided in section 1250 of the California Probate Code. The filing of this notice form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner:  
Ward Billard III,  
4100 Market St.,  
Oakland, CA 94605  
/s/ Ward Billard  
Signature of Petitioner  
Legal EC 1924  
Publish April 14, 21, 28,

2006

## Legal Notice

FILED March 23, 2006  
PATRICK O'CONNELL,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: BOSSA NOVA  
GLOBAL, Inc. located at 1435  
Cerrito, CA 94530 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

ANDREA G. BARRIOS  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ Andrea Barrios

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa on date indicated by file stamp above.

The registrant has not yet  
been granted to transact business  
under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above.

Expires March 1, 2011  
Legal Bk 1906  
Publ March 31, 2006

FILED April 11, 2006  
STEPHEN L. WEIR,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: (1) FIRMAMENT IN-  
SURANCE & SOUND, Inc.  
located at 28 Vicente Pl. in Berkeley,  
CA 94701 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

ANDREW SAKSEN  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ Peter Isakson

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa on date indicated by file stamp above.

The registrant has not yet  
been granted to transact business  
under the fictitious business  
name(s) listed above.

Expires March 15, 2011  
Legal Bk 1916  
Publ March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28,

2006

FILED March 22, 2006  
PATRICK O'CONNELL,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: LAKESHORE EQUI-  
PMENT CO., Inc. located at  
130 Ryan Industrial Ct.  
Ste 215 in San Ramon, CA  
94563 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

JOHN ROSHIM  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ John Roshim

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Contra Costa on date indicated by file stamp above.

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Expires March 15, 2011  
Legal Bk 1916  
Publ March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28,

2006

FILED March 22, 2006  
PATRICK O'CONNELL,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: FIDELITY ONE  
MORTGAGE LLC, located at  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ Sonja Stokes

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Legal Bk 1916  
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2006

FILED March 22, 2006  
PATRICK O'CONNELL,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: (1) CHRISSY  
WEISS, Inc. located at  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ Sonja Stokes

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2006

FILED March 22, 2006  
PATRICK O'CONNELL,  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BY: Deputy  
FILE NO. 06-2773

FICTIONAL BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT

The name of the business: (1) GARY STOKES,  
Inc. located at 1251  
Solano Ave. in Berkeley,  
CA 94701 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

SONJA STOKES  
14220 Parklawn Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94702

This business is conduct-  
ed by an individual  
/s/ Sonja Stokes

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MORENO dazzles as Amanda in the Les Waters-directed production of "The Glass Menagerie."

## Glass' full with revival of classic

By Pat Craig  
STAFF WRITER

There is a reason "The Glass Menagerie" has survived, and for more than 60 years, understand, all you have to see is Berkeley Repertory Theatre's stunning revival of the classic Williams classic.

Like many major works

dated beyond repair, "Glass Menagerie" has acquired to the times, revealing new meaning to anyone willing to look for them.

Of course, having Rita playing Amanda doesn't help. Multi-award-winner Moreno, probably better for music than melody, did an astounding job of preparation for the role, and it shows. Her

overdazzles, at times with temporary feminist sensibilities, at other times as the

faulied Southern belle

familiar to those who

"Glass Menagerie."

But, the years since 1944, Williams wrote the piece, have unusual things to the of a displaced, dysfunctional Southern family living in a harsh world.

Additionally, Amanda is a

sharp-molossom who bullies her

son, and emotionally

handicapped him by insisting that with

little effort, they could be

the genteel Old South

club life she enjoyed (or

imagines she enjoyed)

she married her

husband, who "fell

with long distance" and

Lochfeld skillfully pulls every

### THEATER REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents "The Glass Menagerie," by Tennessee Williams

■ **WHEN:** Tuesdays through Sundays, through May 31

■ **WHERE:** Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 1/2 hours

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$45-\$59

■ **CONTACT:** 510-647-2949, www.berkeleyrep.org

In many productions, Amanda seems harsh and excessively cruel. She appears dejected and unable to cope with the current situation in her life. Now, however, she seems much more pragmatic, and as much of a victim of her children as they are of her.

Laura (Emily Donahoe), the daughter, now seems much less like the mentally meandering victim and more like a person who has simply refused to take any risks, or make any effort to improve her life. As a result, the role of Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller (Terrence Riordan), takes on what seems to be a much more pivotal role in urging Laura to make her move. And that makes his tragic truth all the more devastating.

In fact, it's only Tom (Erik Lochfeld) who remains much like he was in "Menagerie's" origins. He is the Tennessee Williams character in what many view as the author's most autobiographical play. The character is much more subtly drawn, and Lochfeld skillfully pulls every

nuance out of the increasingly frustrated Tom.

That, actually, is what makes the Les Waters-directed production so strikingly innovative, and offers a wonderful new look at an old friend. All of the actors have examined their characters from different angles, and have managed to take fresh and innovative approaches to the way they tell their stories.

Waters, taking full advantage of the oppressively tight Scott Bradley set and the understated, but eloquent Matt Frey lighting, has given the production an uncomfortably crowded feel. He turns the family apartment into a packed and unpleasant space where nobody can ever completely be off-guard or relaxed.

The set is built inside a metal balcony and fire escape, but instead of being an island of shelter from a cruel outside world, the metal framework outlines a relentless prison where the inmates seem to be living a life sentence, with no possibility of release or release.

What makes the success of the Berkeley Rep production so much more remarkable is that "The Glass Menagerie" is a fairly frequently produced show at all levels of the theater chain. Many of the audience members could probably recite whole chunks of dialogue, and a number seemed to be anticipating fondly remembered lines.

But even with that, the production retained a stunning emotional intensity, and threw off sparks of serious human emotion.

Reach Pat Craig at 925-945-4736 or pccraig@ctimes.com.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern

California

"Job," by Christopher Moore, (\$24.95)

"The Company of the Courtesans," by Sarah Dunant, (Random \$23.95)

"The Golden Bird," by Elizabeth Morow, (\$25.95)

"The Light Watch," by Sarah Waugh, (\$25.95)

"The Popular Legacy," by Steve Ballantine, (\$24.95)

"The Goddess in the Belly," by Barbara Kingsolver, (\$23.95)

#### Nonfiction

1. "American Theocracy," by Kevin Phillips, (Viking, \$26.95.)

2. "Game of Shadows," by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, (Gotham, \$26.)

3. "Marley & Me," by John Grogan, (William Morrow, \$21.95.)

4. "The World Is Flat," by Thomas L. Friedman, (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$27.50.)

5. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, (William Morrow, \$25.95.)

6. "The Year of Magical Thinking," by Joan Didion, (Knopf, \$23.95.)

7. "Cobra II," by Michael R. Gordon and Bernard E. Trainor, (Pantheon, \$27.95.)

8. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell, (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)

9. "Enrique's Journey," by Sonia Nazario, (Random House, \$26.95.)

10. "What Jesus Meant," by Gary Wills, (Viking, \$24.95.)

#### Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Mermaid Chair," by Sue Monk Kidd, (Penguin, \$14.)

2. "Gilead," by Marilyn Robinson, (Picador, \$14.)

3. "Never Let Me Go," by Kazuo Ishiguro, (Vintag, \$14.)

4. "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," by Lisa See, (Random House, \$13.95.)

5. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini, (Riverhead, \$14.)

6. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown, (Anchor, \$14.95.)

7. "In the Company of Cheerful Ladies," by Alexander McCall Smith, (Anchor, \$12.95.)

8. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson, (Back Bay, \$13.95.)

9. "Kafka on the Shore," by Haruki Murakami, (Vintage, \$14.95.)

10. "Runaway," by Alice Munro, (Vintage, \$14.95.)

## Gala

FROM PAGE C12

selection, features a Vietnam vet who, 30 years after a devastating injury incurred in his first month of duty, finds his life turned upside down when he becomes the temporary guardian of a 9-year-old boy. It's witty and poignant, with unforgettable characters. King lives in Brooklyn.

■ Elinor Lipman's new novel is the warm and amusing "My Latest Grievance." Her much-loved previous novels include "The Inn at Lake Devine," "The Pursuit of Alice Thrift," "The Ladies' Man" and "Dearly Departed." Lipman splits her time between Manhattan and Northampton, Mass.

■ Returning to give opening comments is Oakland's Joshua Bruff, who was featured at the spring 2005 gala. His "Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green"

came out in 2004, and his next novel is expected to be published next year.

If you have questions for the authors, please e-mail them prior to the event to [icarey@ctimes.com](mailto:icarey@ctimes.com), or mail them to Times/Hills Book Club, P.O. Box 8099, Walnut Creek, CA 94560-8099.

Following the discussion, authors will sign books in the lobby, where dessert will be served. The authors' books will be sold in the lobby before and after the event.

## Luka's

FROM PAGE C12

Around 11 p.m., we slipped into Luka's back room, which was, even above the food, my happy place. A large pool table in the center of the room entertained a lively crew that took turns at Donkey Kong, Centipede, Super Pac-Man and the

other old-school video games and pinball machines. Good times.

Speaking of old-school, we ended our night at the pool table, where a lively crew was shooting soma and grooving to the vintage 1970s jukebox, which holds 100 45s of some seriously warm and cozy Motown and blues: Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, even

Bay Area funk legend Sugar Pie DeSanto.

Now that's dessert.

Night Writer Jessica Yadegaran profiles bars, clubs and similar hangouts in the Bay Area every other week in Friday TimeOut. Send comments or suggestions to [jyadegaran@ctimes.com](mailto:jyadegaran@ctimes.com).

## Obituaries and In Memoriam



Franklin LaFond Milliken

January 30, 1935 - April 5, 2006

Frank Milliken peacefully died at home April 5, 2006. He was 71 years old. A life long resident of the East Bay, Frank was born on January 30, 1935 in Oakland. He lived over 40 years in Concord. Frank attended Montclair Elementary, Our Lady of Lourdes, and was a graduate of Piedmont High School. He attended U.C. Davis and earned a B.S. degree in Anthropology at U.C. Berkeley. He was an inventor and entrepreneur and ran many successful businesses including Black Bart Recreational Vehicles, PETE Trade Show and Acorn Products. He received two patents in his lifetime for motor vehicle alarm systems. Frank was president of the Concord/Diablo Rotary Club, serving from 1981-1982. He had a life-long passion for photography, technology, learning and baseball. Frank is survived by his beloved wife of 21 years, Janet; by his children Kevin, Tim, Ryan and Kendra, daughters-in-law Debbie and Stephanie, brothers Joseph, Peter, Barry, sisters-in-law and many cousins, nieces and nephews. No services will be held.

Memorial contributions are suggested in lieu of flowers to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis, 1659 Branham Lane, Ste. F#127, San Jose, CA 95118; [www.coalitionforpf.org](http://www.coalitionforpf.org)

### Marc Daja Elbasani

10/25/79-3/29/06

Marc Daja Elbasani passed away on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. He was the loving son of Barry and Kathleen Elbasani, and the best friend of his twin brother Colin Daja Elbasani. The cause of death was an undetected heart defect that precipitated an accidental drowning in a swimming pool. It was an iron death as he was a good sailor, loved the sea, and loved swimming.

He will be remembered as a generous, kind, and sensitive human being who lived 26 years of world-wide travel, filled with adventure and discovery of both places and, especially, people whose company he cherished forever.

He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1998, attended Saint Mary's College in Moraga for two years whereupon he transferred to UC Berkeley's School of Environmental Design to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture degree in 2002.

He spent the next few years interning at various architectural practices in the Bay Area.

From the age of three he began a life long love with carousels and, especially, their music. While others rode the wood-carved animals, Marc focused on the historic wind-pipe band organ that led him to a rigorous pursuit of every historic and present day aspect of pipe organ music and instruments here and abroad.

His daily life was filled with architecture, and nights with constructing wind-pipe organs. Ultimately, he combined his design talents, computer knowledge, and love of crafting with wood to create (with the help of a special friend) a new prototype of a wind pipe band organ. A Mozart tune was the first musical piece played and tears were present on the occasion.

As busy as Marc was, he always found time to make people, everywhere, happy with a kind thought, advice or assistance with some project. Marc was not a big crowd person but anyone who spent any time with him always felt like they were the only person in his life.

His mother, brother and father, as well as his uncle, aunts, cousins, a special friend and countless people he touched with his presence shall miss Marc but take solace in our belief that he is up there already marshalling his materials, tools and people necessary to assemble the ultimate wind-pipe organ.

Our family hopes that you all like Mozart.

Kathy, Colin and Barry will miss him as will his Uncles Jerry, Bill and Lee; Aunts Marsha, Sharon, Elaine and Sally; his cousins Barry, Zachary, Kimber, Edira, Roland, Artur, Shpresa, Bilo, Donta, Debbie, Richard, Rita, Carl, Hilary, Carson, Desentia, Bruno, Viola, Blerina, Eva, Ervin, Mirella, Lilianna, Besnik, Lilianna, Lorena, Wendy, and Ilir; his honorary Auntie Gio and Uncle Cliff; honorary sister, Makiko; and finally his best friend and long time design collaborator, Paul West.

To those who read this and in Marc's own words...

"All the best."

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Marc to the Marc Daja Elbasani Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Dept. of Architecture at the College of Environmental Design, Univ. of California, Berkeley.

Donations can be made payable to the Marc Daja Elbasani Memorial Scholarship Fund, and mailed to: Dept. of External Relations, c/o Lawrence Lawler, College of Environmental Design, 235 Wurster Hall, Mail Code 1820, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-1820.

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# Arts & Leisure

Friday, April 14, 2006

JVPM



BILL MANN  
Multimedia Notes

## Familiar voices heard up north

**PORTRLAND** — It's always weird to come to another city and hear a familiar voice I know from Bay Area radio. And on my latest jaunt to the Pacific Northwest, I've heard quite a few.

Here in Oregon, I again heard the distinctive tones of erstwhile longtime KNBR newsman Mark Provost, who left after the S.F. station went to an all-sports format seven years ago. Provost ended up at Portland newstalk station KXL-AM as an anchor and as KXL's statewide news affiliate coordinator.

That didn't work out, partly, Provost told me then, because KXL owner Paul Allen, the Microsoft billionaire, insisted on making KXL's news department a publicity arm of the NBA's Portland Trailblazers, an outfit Allen also owns.

Last week, I heard Provost's big voice again, but on a competing newstalk station in this Oregon city, KPM-AM. I then heard the voice of another longtime Bay Area radio personality, Tom Parker, who's now a talk-host on KPM here after being morning personality on a Portland music station for years. He was known as "Big Tom" Parker when he was morning man on San Fran's K-101, now called "Star-101."

Parker's accomplished what many aging DJs try to do but few achieve — transitioning into talk.

Up in Seattle, I always catch another voice familiar to Bay Area listeners. Dave Ross' wry commentaries on the CBS Radio Networks are heard nationally, here on KCBS.

Ross lives in Seattle, and does a weekday talk show on newstalk KIRO. There's not a better talk host in the country. Ross' interview on KIRO last week with the Church of Scientology's top spokesman was a gem:

Ross never insulted or tried to embarrass the guy — that's not his style (and being nonconfrontational in today's deplorable world of talk radio is unusual). And unlike other talk hosts, Ross actually knew what an E-meter was (it's one of church founder L. Ron Hubbard's favorite inventions; it's used to ascertain the "spiritual state" of a subject).

Speaking of familiar voices, the auditioning co-host of KIRO's 9 a.m. to noon talk show — a spot Ross formerly held before his unsuccessful bid for Congress last fall — is Ron Reagan. The ex-president's entertaining son is doing well in his tryout.

Reagan offered his own bemused take on Scientology the other morning, asking for callers who'd been recruited by the church. On another show, the ex-Republican president's son was eloquent in his defense of Sen. Hillary Clinton the other morning in a show about powerful men taking shots at "up-to-date" powerful women.

The topic followed some idiotic comments made about Hillary to Chris Matthews by the disgraced Tom DeLay. Air America's Al Franken also replayed DeLay's comments.

**TAKE OUT, EH?** But by far the most amusing thing I saw flipping around the dial up here recently was a TV news report out of Victoria, B.C.

It seems that a 25-year-old Victoria man was vacationing in Costa Rica when he was accosted and knocked out by strangers. He woke up in a local hospital with a sore jaw and sore ribs — and was missing a kidney.

"I think it was stolen, eh?" he told CBC News.

The hospital insists the young Canadian was kicked in the ribs and suffered kidney damage so severe the kidney had to go.

"I think it's organ theft," said the youngster's mom. "That's an organ that can heal, eh?"

A government health official warned his countrymen that organ theft overseas has become increasingly common.

And you thought losing a few traveler's checks would ruin your vacation.

Reach Bill Mann at  
Newsman@sonic.net

## Luka's: One-stop eating, drinking, dancing

**D**ON'T KNOW about you, but I find the restaurant-club hybrid to be a creation of sheer genius. Think about it: Your taste buds get their groove on, and your booty follows. With perhaps an adult beverage — or three — in between.

### NIGHT WRITER Jessica Yadegaran

Luka's Taproom & Lounge has got this symbiosis down. On Saturday night, my friend Julie and I grubbed on Luka's Belgian fries with a trio of yummy dips, fabulous duck confit and a gnocchi that put Trader Joe's frozen variety to shame. (Sorry, Joe, you're usually da man.)

This is a critical point in this column. I've been talking to many like-minded women of late and we all need you, the men reading this, to know something. We love good food. It is very important to us.

Somewhere around age 25, sometimes younger, the lady mammal enters a foodie phase that controls several, if not all, the receptors in her brain. Be it the duck confit at Luka's or the vegetarian burrito at Cancun in the Mission District — yes, it's the best burrito in San Francisco — food makes us happy. Very happy. Contrary to popular belief, it's not just dessert.

So, as I was saying, Julie and I took our happy bellies to the bar, slinking through Luka's narrow and hip-hop-happening dining area filled with funky art on its blue walls. We ordered up several cocktails, among our favorites the East Bay Iced Tea — not as brass as Long Island's — and the Besame Mucho, Godiva chocolate liqueur, Baileys Irish Cream, vanilla vodka and a Hershey's kiss.

Luka's serves no fewer than 16 beers on tap, including several of the Belgian variety and



DJ TIM DIESEL spins hip-hop, reggaeton and funk at Luka's Taproom & Lounge in Oakland.

### LUKA'S TAPROOM & LOUNGE

■ **WHERE:** 2221 Broadway, Oakland.  
■ **HOURS:** Thursdays through Saturdays until 2 a.m.; Mondays through Wednesdays and Sunday until midnight.  
■ **CONTACT:** 510-451-4677, [www.lukas.oakland.com](http://www.lukas.oakland.com).  
■ **PARKING:** 18-car parking lot (imagine that!) and plenty of meters.

the very hard-to-find St. Bernardus, the syrah of ales. At 10 percent alcohol by volume, it tasted like creamy wine and filled me up like a steak.

At the bar, we took in the hockey game and the scene. It was after 9 p.m. at this point,

■ **COVER CHARGE:** \$5 before 11 p.m. and \$10 after on Fridays and Saturdays.

■ **ATMOSPHERE:** Dimly lit taproom meets art, Motown and pinball.

■ **CROWD:** Diverse mix of urbanites booty-bumpin' with fellow beer lovers.

■ **NASTOIDS:** A few.

■ **BARBIES:** Urban Barbies.

■ **GIN & TONIC RATING:** 5.

■ **MOJITOS?** Who cares? There are 16 beers on tap.

and the nastoids established themselves with looks up and down. Julie and I gabbed and giggled, while the room's growing presence of sistahs was still no match for the male-dominated space — we estimated a good 70:30. Still, we decided

Luka's has more diversity than a high school diversity assembly, what with the African-American athletes, the Ladies Night clans and the indie-rockers.

By 10:30 p.m., I saw a white indie boy and a hot black woman getting their ba-dunk-da-dunk in the middle of Luka's dance floor, which is to the left of the bar. Any pretension or attitude melted into the dark red walls. High above, funky paper lanterns set the mood. The DJ spun hip-hop, reggaeton and all things new-and-old-school funk. Even the art on the walls — bright iconic pieces reminiscent of Lichtenstein — is accessible. Let's put it this way: If I fell in love with a painting, I could actually buy one.

See LUKA'S, Page C11



CARE FOR A BEER? Offers 16 beers on tap more in bottles, plus of specialty drinks.

## Book club author g coming

Tickets for the Times/Hills Book Club Gala are now on sale. The gala is one of the two literary affairs sponsored by newspapers and held at the regional Center for the Nut Creek.

Last fall, another added to accommodate demand for the galas are hosted by the Book Club founder.

The gala, which sold out quickly, features reading from their works (talking), followed by a curtain moderated by the upcoming author.

■ Nick Arvin, whose "War" was the most featured Times/Hills selection. The soaring young farm boy's experiences in France at the World War II has been with classic war stories "Red Badge of Courage" in Denver.

■ Mark Allen Cuneo, whose "The Green Age of Witherow" takes place in the mid-19th century in a tiny town in what is now Antioch. This gritty historical fiction lends insight into the Contra Costa's early days.

■ Dave King's "The Ha Ha," the

See GALA, Page



A FLY WHEEL illustrates different stages of a fly's development in the "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit at the Lawrence Hall of Science.

## Explore critters' role in crime scenes

**Why it's cool:** If you're a die-hard "CSI" fan, there's no finer way to spend a day than channeling crime scene investigator and bug man Gil Grissom at the Lawrence Hall of Science. Rich in maggots, flies and corpses, the science museum's new "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit was created by Grissom's real-life inspiration, forensic entomologist M. Lee Goff.

There are life-size "crime scenes," hands-on exhibits, real field and lab equipment and, of course, bugs galore — or, as Gil would call them, "key witnesses."

**What kids like:** Beetles devouring flesh from a skeleton? What's not to like? All that weird "you can use larvae to determine time of death" stuff from the television show is real. This exhibit explains how and why it works, and gives teens and non-squea-

### THE BASICS

■ **WHERE:** Lawrence Hall of Science, Centennial Drive, UC Berkeley.

■ **HOURS:** Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ **TICKETS:** \$9.50 for adults, \$7.50 for students and seniors, \$5.50 for preschoolers. Planetarium tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for kids.

■ **CONTACT:** 510-642-5132 or [www.lawrencehallofscience.org](http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org).

mish youngsters (and their parents) a chance to test it out for themselves on model crime scenes.

**What parents like:** The exhibit makes science not just palatable — if you can call something that involves maggots palatable — but very, very cool.

And admit it, you always fancied yourself in the role of the urbane "CSI" lead.

**Squeamish?** Not to worry. If the maggots are too much for you, the museum's beloved dinosaurs beckon. Check out the giant T. Rex, the vicious velociraptors, and doting Maiasaura dinosaurs and their babies. The planetarium performs its usual starry wonders, too, with weekend shows at 1, 2:15 and 3:30 p.m.

**Afterward:** Grab a snack at the museum's Bay View Cafe, which serves salads, sandwiches and desserts. The kids' menu includes pizzas and hot dogs — both the meat and tofu varieties. Or wander down the hill to Telegraph Avenue's eclectic cafes, pizza-by-the-slice and ethnic eateries.

**Parking tips:** Bring quarters (or small bills) for the museum's

pay parking lot. Make a note of your parking stall number when you get out of your car — the toll-taking machine will ask for it. Or, take AC Transit from the Berkeley BART stop.

**CSI:** The "CSI: Crime Scene Insects" exhibit runs through May 29. "The Big Dinos" run has been extended through May 7.

**And one more last thing:** We don't usually tout museum memberships, but this one may be the deal of the century. A family membership costs \$65, single ticket admission for a family of four is \$34 — you do the math.

Plus, that Lawrence Hall pass will also get you a year's free admission to the California Academy of Sciences, the Exploratorium, Chabot Space & Science Center, Zeum, the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and 20 other California science spots.

— Jackie Burrell, staff writer

### IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Times/Hills Book Club Author Gala

■ **WHERE:** Hofmann's, the Dean Lesher Room for the Arts, Locus, 1000 Shattuck Drive, Walnut Creek

■ **WHEN:** 7 p.m. April 22

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$22

■ **CONTACT:** Tickets are available at the theater or call 925-937-2222 or visit [www.timeshills.com](http://www.timeshills.com)



# Get idle problem fixed quickly to avoid further damage

## Appeal of '66 Dodge Charger is

BY JUNIOR DAMATO  
MOTOR MATTERS

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1984 Honda Accord with a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine. The cold idle speed revs high at 3,500 rpm. I was told the problem is with a valve that controls idle speed revs up too high. The engine also developed a rough idle. The mechanic said the parts required to repair the fast idle are expensive. What are your thoughts? — Greg

**Dear Greg:** Get the fast idle problem repaired right away. The high rpm will damage the engine and catalytic converter, not to mention the high gas use. The rough idle can be a fuel, vacuum or mechanical problem. Whatever it is, the car should be checked immediately.

**Dear Doctor:** My father gave me an article you wrote a few months ago. You answered a reader's question about switching over to synthetic transmission fluid in the automatic transmission. You advised not to switch because of friction capabilities. As an Amsoil dealer I disagree with your opinion. Not all oils are created equal. I have used Amsoil synthetic transmission fluid in my vehicles for many trouble-free years. — Steve

**Dear Steve:** We service 20 to 30 vehicles of all makes and models every day. I give the advice that works for my customers and myself. Unlike some who write a Q&A column, I work daily in the shop. I will stand by my reply in not recommending full synthetic transmission fluid on the average automatic transmission. Products not recommended by the vehicle man-

### AUTO DOCTOR

ufacturer while under warranty can void the warranty.

**Dear Doctor:** I live in New York and own a 2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee. I went to the dealer for an oil and filter change and also asked them to replace the battery. The service advisor suggested that the throttle body and fuel injectors be cleaned. A day or so later the "check engine" light came on. The dealer said the throttle position sensor was at fault. They replaced the throttle position sensor and the light has not come back on. I approached the dealer and he said the "check engine" light coming on was not connected to the throttle body cleaning. — Tony

**Dear Tony:** In some cases of throttle body cleaning, the throttle position sensor can be damaged if the cleaner gets into the actual sensor. This is something you may want to take up with the dealer. You also have to remember the Jeep is four years old and (since you live in New York), has been through both hot and cold climates.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 1995 Buick wagon. Sometimes when I try to start the engine, the electronic pass key lights up on the dash and the engine will not turn over. I have to wait for the light to go out before the car will start. I have tried the second key and still have the same problem. I think it has something to do with the factory anti-theft system. — Tony

**Dear Tony:** The most common

problem with the GM electronic pass key anti-theft system is the ignition cylinder. For testing purposes go to your local repair shop and have the technician check the resistance in the ignition key pellet. Then ask him to install a resistor in the wiring at the lower part of the steering column, thus eliminating the ignition cylinder. Remember this is for testing only. This will bypass the electronic pass key's anti-theft feature. If this "test" resolves the problem, then the ignition cylinder will need replacement.

**Dear Doctor:** I own a 2003 Lincoln Town Car. On two occasions I have brought the car to the Lincoln dealer for poor radio reception and static. The dealer said they could not duplicate the problem. On my way home I stopped at a radio shop and was told the problem was a faulty rear window antenna. I called the Lincoln dealer and they said one of their certified technicians would have to diagnose the problem. I wrote to Lincoln and did not get a reply. What is my next step? — Bill

**Dear Bill:** A quick look on our computer-based Alldata and identification shop programs shows Technical Service Bulletin No.03-7-6 referring to your problem. There is an upgraded antenna kit and antenna module (No.4w1z-19g323-aa). The installation takes 2.8 hours. Some will require just a harness replacement (No.3w1z-18k891-ba). Bring this article to the dealer with you. This information is also available to the dealer online.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

BY VERN PARKER  
MOTOR MATTERS

Ever since Louis A. Jaeger spent his teen-age years working at Mr. Norm's Grand Spaulding Dodge in Chicago, he has been hooked on Dodge automobiles.

At the time, of course, he knew he couldn't afford any of the new cars. But by the 1980s he had both the wherewithal and the desire to acquire a muscle car — naturally a Dodge.

The car he sought had to be powerful, but not overly so, and it couldn't be a rust bucket. It had to be nice, but not so nice that he couldn't drive it on the street. He knew what would satisfy his needs; he just had to find that elusive car.

In the autumn of 2004, Jaeger learned that an auto museum in Volo, Ill., was selling some cars, one of which he had seen years earlier: a 1966 Dodge Charger. He went to investigate and discovered this particular Dodge was exactly what he had been looking for during the last two decades.

"It's a nice original driver," he says. At a hair less than 17 feet long,

the Dodge had been on display at the museum with the odometer registering about 84,000 miles. The 3,499-pound vehicle is powered by a 383-cubic-inch V8 engine crowned with a four-barrel carburetor that helps the engine develop 325 horsepower. Only the Hemi engine was absolutely no trouble.

Once he had his treasured Dodge home he went over the entire car to ensure that everything was perfect. He was happily surprised when all he found were a few burned-out light bulbs that needed to be replaced.

The maroon interior of the car

shows almost no wear. Unusual is

the fact that such a long car — at

6.25-feet wide — is equipped with only four bucket seats. The interior longitudinally is a console with maroon carpet on either side, with all four doors in maroon vinyl. The headrests were sun-damaged and had to be replaced, as did the steering wheel.

Jaeger is pleased the sheet on his Dodge Charger is that it left the factory equipped with a factory-installed air conditioner under the dash, air conditioning vents, power steering, power door and an original 6,000-mile tachometer. He handles the stopping chores according to the manual drum brakes.

Another feature Jaeger is happy to have are the four in front of the driver that provide accurate information, including 150-mph speedometer and odometer now showing 87,000 miles.

"The gas mileage ain't bad," Jaeger reports, "with 12 to 14 highway is the best I can do."

Jaeger has installed Edelbrock air cleaner just in the engine bay look better and has kept the original which replaced in a few minutes.

"It doesn't leak a drop," Jaeger says, "and there's never any smoke."

## Toyota's road to the top could be a struggle

BY MICHELLE KREBS  
MOTOR MATTERS

CNW Marketing Research, an automotive research firm in Bandon, Ore., recently raised a topic that I have been thinking about for some time. In the latest monthly newsletter, the firm listed 15 issues facing Toyota.

The Japanese automaker assuredly is marching toward capturing the title of No. 1 automaker in the world, overtaking General Motors. It may be this year, it may be in the next few years, but it surely will be before the decade ends.

It struck me, however, that it would be no cakewalk. For starters, Toyota's competitors are determined not to roll over and play dead.

That is particularly evident on the environmental and hybrid fronts. Automakers have joined forces in an effort (unofficially) to block Toyota from world domination. DaimlerChrysler and BMW joined GM to cooperatively develop hybrid technology. Their progress will be reported this spring. Ford reportedly is considering joining the trinity, as it gears up to produce 250,000 hybrids a year by the decade's end. Other Asian automakers are said to be considering signing up as well. Competitors don't want Toyota dominating hybrid technology, especially battery production. (Ford already has accused Toyota of deliberately withholding battery production from Ford.)

Another front quietly brewing against Toyota involves E85, an ethanol-gasoline combination, also called flex-fuel. Should E85 catch on, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler would have a leg up, having already produced millions of E85-capable vehicles. E85 is gaining the support of the U.S. government, members of both sides of the congressional aisle and some environmentalists, accord-

### SHE'S FREEWHEELING

ing to Washington, D.C. sources.

Surveys show Americans rank importing less foreign oil higher than environmental concerns. Toyota officials, meantime, have been defensive about praise regarding E85 — and any negative charges against hybrids.

CNW's list of 15 issues generally falls into categories, a major one being the Koreans. Korean automakers Hyundai and Kia are attacking Toyota "from a second front," the report notes, introducing vehicles directly competing with Toyotas, but "at significantly lower prices and with near-Toyota quality" and naming their competitor in their ads. Case in point is the recently introduced Hyundai Azera, aimed squarely at the Toyota Avalon. Edmunds' Inside Line picked the Azera over the Avalon in comparison evaluations.

Toyota faces an age issue, being seen as the Buick of the Asian brands. "Younger consumers are going through a phase of 'not my father's Camry' just as the 1970s and 1980s youth market went through the 'not my father's Oldsmobile,'" noted the CNW report. The average age of Camry drivers is over 48, compared to Hyundai's 39. The report went on: "Younger consumers see Toyota as a brand for older drivers, lacking distinction and peer approval."

Even Scion, despite its sales success, is attracting older buyers. The average buyer age for the Scion xB has climbed dramatically because over age 65 drivers find it a perfect low-cost, roomy, fuel-efficient lifestyle vehicle.

Not every Toyota is a hit with key audiences, including the Matrix and the current Tundra pickup. The Tundra is aimed at the "appearance" segment, not the macho rancher/farmer, towing, con-

tract crowd, a problem being addressed with the next-generation Tundra.

The women's market, the report notes, is becoming less practical and more emotional, an area in which Toyota lags. The Ford Fusion has a 55 percent female primary driver penetration, and of them, approximately 40 percent had a Toyota on their shopping list, according to CNW studies.

Economics play a role as well. The Internet has made consumers aware of competitive pricing, competitive features and competitive quality/safety. The public assumes Toyota scores highest on all counts. "Mystique and reality collide. This was the undoing of VW in 2002-2005," notes CNW. They also recognize repair costs are higher.

"General economics have seen household incomes rise while discounted and distinctive (fashion statement) products now appeal to all income groups. That pushed the high-line Camry intenders into Lexus (and other near-luxury) models much akin to what happened to Ford's Taurus audience," the report says.

The incentive war and GM's price cuts have put Toyotas at a price disadvantage, by thousands. The report noted that despite Toyota's market share gain last year, North American financial returns were flat. At the same time, Toyota's broadening product line has forced higher advertising spending, and dealers are pressuring Toyota for deeper discounts because of local competitive offerings.

Despite these challenges, CNW sees no decline in Toyota sales. The firm concludes that "unlike the Big Three past and present, Toyota recognizes at least most of these issues and is actively confronting them." Indeed, Toyota is No. 1-bound; now it is only a matter of when and how they manage the issues that confront them.



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#### 2006 SLK280

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at this offer #099132

27-month lease, \$0 security deposit, \$5,849.63 plus tax and license due at lease inception. Lessee responsible for 25¢ per mile over 16,875 total miles. On approval of above average credit.

#### 2006 C230

Automatic Transmission, CD Changer, Sunroof Package

**\$196** mo. + tax for 27 months

at this offer #890505

27-month lease, \$0 security deposit, \$5,067.55 plus tax and license due at lease inception. Lessee responsible for 25¢ per mile over 16,875 total miles. On approval of above average credit.

## Confused about car care? Some guidelines to follow

NJ

Being proactive about vehicle maintenance will not only keep your vehicle in good condition, but save you time and money as well. Here are some guidelines for what to check, and when, from the experts at Firestone Complete Auto Care:

■ Every other fuel fill-up: engine oil and washer fluid.

■ Every oil change: antifreeze, air filter and battery.

■ Monthly: belts, brake fluid, hoses, power steering fluid, tire air pressure, tire tread depth and overall condition, and transmission fluid.

■ Every six months: wiper blades.

■ Annually: exhaust system.

■ Replace when out or worn: lights, shock absorbers.

■ Refer to vehicle owner's manual: change oil, rotate tires.

Experts also recommend that drivers keep an emergency kit in their vehicles. This too can be confusing, as people don't always know what to include in an emergency kit.

Here are a few items Firestone Complete

Auto Care suggests you have to help prepare for unforeseen circumstances on the road:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlight and batteries
- Reflector
- Protective gloves
- Toolkit
- Flares and matches
- Gallon of water
- Nonperishable food
- Portable air compressor
- Auto Club membership card
- In the winter months: a shovel, bag of kitty litter or sand and a blanket.

With a basic car care checklist to help keep your vehicle running well and a comprehensive vehicle emergency kit, you can drive with confidence knowing that you'll be prepared for any "bump in the road."

Trisha Hessinger, an automotive education specialist and former racecar driver, is a national spokeswoman for Firestone Complete Auto Care's award-winning Car Care Academy program. For details on the Car Care Academy program, visit [www.MasterCareUSA.com](http://www.MasterCareUSA.com).

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## WEEKLY SALES

**ALAMEDA**  
 1520 3rd St - \$605,000  
 1110 9th St 17 - \$410,000  
 207 Anderson - \$1,200,000  
 85 Argus Ct - \$598,000  
 1202 Ballena Bl - \$682,000  
 2888 Coral Sea St - \$917,000  
 2888 Coral Sea St - \$1,057,000  
 566 Country Isle - \$730,000  
 37 Hays Ct - \$800,000  
 13 Invincible - \$740,000  
 110 Ironwood Rd - \$640,000  
 447 Lincoln Av - \$530,000  
 12 Marshall Wy - \$656,000  
 840 Oak St - \$500,000  
 120 Pacific Av - \$599,000  
 1902 Pacific Av - \$450,000  
 1114 Post St - \$430,000  
 2042 San Jose Av - \$620,000  
 5 Sanderling Ct - \$674,000  
 360 Shorepoint 208 - \$325,000

**BAY**  
 417 Evelyn Av 101 - \$411,500  
 419 Evelyn Av 102 - \$450,000  
 419 Evelyn Av 105 - \$325,000

**BERKELEY**  
 1334 9th St - \$605,000  
 1410 Alcatraz Av - \$550,000  
 2741 Ashby Pl - \$1,150,000  
 2629 Grant St - \$750,000  
 2612 Hillegass C2 - \$486,500

**CERRITO**  
 6416 Barrett Av - \$786,000  
 2028 Carquinez Av - \$780,000  
 548 Everett St - \$510,000  
 940 Everett St - \$620,000  
 2805 Mono Av - \$515,000  
 6431 Stockton Av - \$900,000  
 2057 Tapscott Av - \$773,000

**COEUR D'ALENE**  
 107 Alice Ln - \$385,000  
 5227 E. SF Dam Rd - \$345,000  
 19 Joan Vista St - \$520,000

**EMERYVILLE**  
 1228 54th St - \$445,000  
 6363 Christie 2024 - \$497,000  
 12 City Limits Cr - \$650,000  
 67 Emery Bay Dr - \$386,000

**ENGLISH**  
 312 Rugby Av - \$1,200,000

**FRANKLIN**  
 1806 101st Av - \$325,000  
 2043 101st Av - \$283,000  
 3266 104th Av - \$406,000

664 39th St - \$650,000  
 2126 41st Av - \$550,000  
 745 45th St - \$519,000  
 845 47th St - \$560,000  
 1051 59th St - \$430,000  
 444 62nd St - \$810,000  
 1012 63rd St - \$568,500  
 1093 67th St - \$535,000  
 1061 71st Av - \$371,000  
 1249 75th Av - \$430,000  
 2600 79th Av - \$460,000  
 2481 83rd Av - \$495,500  
 2315 85th Av - \$390,000  
 1918 89th Av - \$475,000  
 663 8th St 15 - \$420,000  
 1633 90th Av - \$485,000  
 1355 91st Av - \$300,000  
 1350 96th Av - \$600,000  
 7407 Arthur St - \$475,000  
 696 Athol 301 - \$463,500  
 5351 Belgrave 5 - \$689,000  
 327 Bergedo Dr - \$448,000  
 9919 Bernhardt Dr - \$680,000  
 4902 Broadway 204 - \$512,000  
 2435 Burlington St - \$751,000  
 9915 C St - \$465,000  
 3468 Calandria - \$850,000  
 280 Caldecott Ln 110 - \$530,000  
 547 Capistrano Dr - \$390,000  
 1532 Center St - \$475,000  
 333 Channel Wy 141 - \$745,000  
 345 Channel Wy - \$741,000  
 3035 Chapman St 5 - \$559,000  
 6951 Charing Cross - \$385,000  
 32 Chatsworth Ct - \$970,000  
 18 Chico Ct - \$665,000  
 2079 Church St - \$260,000  
 6300 Contra Costa - \$700,000  
 2629 Coolidge Av - \$560,000  
 3908 Coolidge Av - \$535,000  
 9709 Coral Rd - \$456,000  
 168 Covington St - \$609,000  
 460 Crescent St - \$480,000  
 460 Crescent St - \$385,000  
 2207 Damuth St - \$895,000  
 6141 East 16th St - \$361,500  
 1322 East 27th St - \$490,000  
 1631 East 33rd St - \$490,000  
 5413 El Camile Av - \$15,000  
 6216 Estates Dr - \$1,435,000  
 6400 Estates Dr - \$695,000  
 11020 Estepa Dr - \$415,000  
 4755 Geranium Pl - \$812,000  
 4315 Gilbert St - \$655,000  
 3090 Glascock 102 - \$502,500  
 3090 Glascock 104 - \$502,000  
 3090 Glascock 110 - \$518,000  
 3090 Glascock 111 - \$513,500  
 3090 Glascock 112 - \$498,000  
 3090 Glascock 114 - \$487,000  
 3090 Glascock 115 - \$513,000  
 3090 Glascock 118 - \$606,500  
 3090 Glascock 119 - \$579,500  
 3090 Glascock 120 - \$558,000  
 3090 Glascock 203 - \$564,000  
 3090 Glascock 207 - \$589,500  
 3090 Glascock 208 - \$528,000  
 3090 Glascock 209 - \$487,500

3425 Harper St - \$550,000  
 10751 Hellman St - \$690,000  
 3445 Henrietta St - \$800,000  
 7427 Holly St - \$440,000  
 2443 Humboldt Av - \$650,000  
 9866 Koford Rd - \$408,000  
 1 Lakeside Dr 907 - \$647,000  
 505 Lancaster St 2 - \$394,000  
 505 Lancaster St 6 - \$580,000  
 325 Lenox Av 201 - \$395,000  
 9870 Lyndhurst St - \$400,000  
 1835 MacArthur Bl - \$650,000  
 8300 MacArthur Bl - \$750,000  
 1125 Magnolia St - \$519,000  
 3303 Magnolia St - \$540,000  
 5655 Masonic Av - \$790,000  
 4509 Merrill St - \$345,000  
 8009 Michigan Av - \$700,000  
 6206 Monadnock - \$465,000  
 3203 Monterey Bl - \$910,000  
 9 Moss Av - \$705,000  
 4017 Oakmore Rd - \$853,000  
 8037 Olive St - \$294,000  
 425 Orange St 106 - \$270,000  
 389 Orange St - \$640,000  
 929 Palm Ct - \$237,000  
 150 Pearl St 111 - \$295,000  
 3505 Penniman Av - \$439,000  
 350 Perkins St 206 - \$439,000  
 5141 Proctor Av - \$1,600,000  
 3823 Randolph Av - \$707,000  
 3035 Chapman St 5 - \$559,000  
 6951 Charing Cross - \$385,000  
 32 Chatsworth Ct - \$970,000  
 18 Chico Ct - \$665,000  
 2079 Church St - \$260,000  
 6300 Contra Costa - \$700,000  
 2629 Coolidge Av - \$560,000  
 3908 Coolidge Av - \$535,000  
 9709 Coral Rd - \$456,000  
 168 Covington St - \$609,000  
 460 Crescent St - \$480,000  
 460 Crescent St - \$385,000  
 2207 Damuth St - \$895,000  
 6141 East 16th St - \$361,500  
 1322 East 27th St - \$490,000  
 1631 East 33rd St - \$490,000  
 5413 El Camile Av - \$15,000  
 6216 Estates Dr - \$1,435,000  
 6400 Estates Dr - \$695,000  
 11020 Estepa Dr - \$415,000  
 4755 Geranium Pl - \$812,000  
 4315 Gilbert St - \$655,000  
 3090 Glascock 102 - \$502,500  
 3090 Glascock 104 - \$502,000  
 3090 Glascock 110 - \$518,000  
 3090 Glascock 111 - \$513,500  
 3090 Glascock 112 - \$498,000  
 3090 Glascock 114 - \$487,000  
 3090 Glascock 115 - \$513,000  
 3090 Glascock 118 - \$606,500  
 3090 Glascock 119 - \$579,500  
 3090 Glascock 120 - \$558,000  
 3090 Glascock 203 - \$564,000  
 3090 Glascock 207 - \$589,500  
 3090 Glascock 208 - \$528,000  
 3090 Glascock 209 - \$487,500

5123 Esmond Av - \$485,000  
 4418 Fieldcrest Dr - \$709,000  
 5326 Fleming Av - \$450,000  
 4200 Fran Wy - \$629,000  
 502 Gertrude Av - \$290,000  
 2993 Groom Dr - \$540,000  
 600 Harrison Dr - \$360,000  
 5417 Highland Av - \$599,000  
 3218 Highpointe - \$688,500  
 5725 Huntington - \$480,000  
 1330 Kelsey St - \$450,000  
 621 Mainz Av - \$419,000  
 134 Malcolm Dr - \$525,000  
 2538 McAlvay Dr - \$410,000  
 4313 McGlothen - \$375,000  
 604 McLaughlin St - \$555,000  
 4067 Mozart Dr - \$567,000  
 5745 Oakmont Dr - \$728,500  
 5757 Oakmont Dr - \$724,000  
 5781 Oakmont Dr - \$717,500  
 104 Park Ln - \$380,000  
 3339 Parkgate Ct - \$450,000  
 608 Payne Dr - \$340,000  
 2383 Roosevelt Av - \$400,000  
 3715 Roosevelt Av - \$500,000  
 16 Sanford Av - \$413,000  
 503 Sea View Dr - \$887,500  
 506 Sea View Dr - \$923,000  
 530 Seaciff Pl - \$886,000  
 240 South 20th St - \$380,000  
 618 South 20th St - \$415,000  
 400 South 49th St - \$413,000  
 5655 Vista Dr - \$734,000  
 5659 Vista Dr - \$730,000  
 5345 Zara Av - \$495,000

**ALAMEDA**  
 TOTAL SALES: 20  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,200,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$620,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$653,600

**ALBANY**  
 TOTAL SALES: 3  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$450,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$411,500  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$395,500

**BERKELEY**  
 TOTAL SALES: 5  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$486,500  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,150,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$605,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$708,300

**EL CERITO**  
 TOTAL SALES: 7  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$510,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$900,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$773,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$697,714

**EL SORRANTE**  
 TOTAL SALES: 3  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$345,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$520,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$385,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$416,667

**EMERYVILLE**  
 TOTAL SALES: 4  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$386,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$497,000  
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$494,500

**KENSINGTON**  
 TOTAL SALES: 1  
 PRICE: \$1,200,000

**OAKLAND**  
 TOTAL SALES: 122  
 LOWEST PRICE: \$229,000  
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,600,000  
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$519,000

**Be kind to your auto. Check the oil and the tire pressure when you fill up.**

## Thanks to better metals, rust in cars is a vanishing problem

BY FRANK GREVE  
 KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS  
 WASHINGTON — Victory is at hand in the auto industry's 30-year war against rust.

No more Ford trucks with tails that look like decayed teeth. More Toyota Celicas with see-through wheel wells. No more with college cafeteria trays covering rusted-out floor pans. "It has virtually gone away," said David Champion, director of automotive testing for Consumers Union, the leading U.S. buying guide.

Tell it to Mike Duran, manager of FairFax, Va., franchise for Ford, once the nation's busiest rust proofer. "If you bought a car in the '70s, you'd have holes in your fenders three years later unless you went straight from the showroom to someone like us," said Duran, 49. Today, his once-arduous competitors are all but gone, and rust-proofing's down to less than a sixth of his business. Improved body metals that resist rust are the big reason, plus discouraging vehicle designs better primers, paints and paints. They add roughly \$200 to new car costs, but enhanced resistance, along with improved corrosion-fighting in cooling and exhaust systems, is a big reason cars last longer, said Lee Piepho, 59, of Howell, Mich., who GM's top rust-fighter.

The improvements are helping longevity. In 1977, half of all passenger cars lasted until they were 10.5 years old, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates. Their travel was 107,000 miles. By 2001 the latest year tallied — median longevity was 13 years for passenger cars and their travel lifetime was to 152,000 miles.

For light trucks, the mileage from 128,000 to 180,000, according to NHTSA, but longevity gained 14 years, largely because more trucks were being built like cars.

To reduce rust, automakers began coating their steel with metals such as aluminum and zinc or their alloys. These metals oxidize, too, but their corrosion products are white, not rust-colored, and less noticeable. When they're present, they oxidize and the steel doesn't.

Greater rust resistance also means depreciation and keeps values up. That hurts new car buyers. Piepho said, "The gleaming 2002 GMC pickup in his driveway is a trade-off he's happy with. It looks as new as the day I bought it and it has 100,000 miles on it," he said.

Until the 1960s, rust mainly afflicted cars along the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico, according to Robert Baboian of Greenville, R.I., a leading auto industry corrosion consultant. Then, increased use of road salt as a winter deicer spread the rust problem throughout snowy areas of North America as far inland as Minnesota and Iowa.

Accompanying the road salt, whose use went from less than a million tons in 1950 to nearly 19 million in 1994, was an increase in acid rain in the Northeast, Ontario and Atlantic Canada. Where salt air, deicer and acid rain combined to eat cars — in places such as St. John's, Newfoundland, Boston, Montreal, as well as snow-buried Buffalo — classic rust buckets such as Fiats, Chevy Vegas and Land Rovers sometimes ran red before they left dealers' lots.

According to Jeffrey Helms, a top rust-fighter at Ford Motor Co., the rust rate in those cities is about five times that in favorable climates, such as inland Texas.

Cars of the '60s and '70s, made of cold rolled steel and painted without additional corrosion protection, offered little resistance to rust, Baboian said. "Even owners who took immaculate care of their cars would soon see a bubbling at the bottoms of their fenders and doors, and there wasn't a thing they could do about it."

To make matters worse, automakers foreign and domestic had begun using thinner steel to reduce weight. A side effect was that it rusted through faster, according to the Auto/Steel Partnership, an alliance based in Southfield, Mich.

Rust forms when iron combines with oxygen to produce iron oxide, a molecule that takes up more space than iron. That's why rust puffs up or flakes on a car's surface. The corrosion accelerates in joints with dissimilar metals due to electrolysis.

To reduce rust, automakers began coating their steel with metals such as aluminum and zinc or their alloys. These metals oxidize, too, but their corrosion products are white, not rust-colored, and less noticeable. When they're present, they oxidize and the steel doesn't.

"They still do rust, just not the way they used to."

"They still do rust, just not the way they used to."

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# Auctioneer helps collectors fill their garages — and portfolios

By JIM MATEJA

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Stocks or bonds not doing well?

Try collectible cars.

So says Dean Kruse, proprietor of Kruse International, the Auburn, Ind., auction house that specializes in antique, vintage and classic cars.

"You put stocks and bonds in the safe, but you can have fun driving a collector car and it still is a very good investment," he said.

"There's a lot of people buying collector cars now, especially 30- to 45-year-olds who made a lot of money in computers and electronics."

And with more buyers than cars, prices are high, Kruse said. That's good news for some and not for others.

To assist collectors in the hunt, Kruse each year comes up with his "Dean's List," cars he expects to rise sharply in value during the year.

Nearly all are convertibles, because, as Kruse says, "When the top goes down, the price goes up."

Here are his choices for 2006:

**1929-1938 Model J Duesenberg**

A longtime and proven favorite of mine is the Model J Duesenberg, the 1929 through 1938 open-top cars. Around 400 chassis were produced and the Model J has always been the ultimate American classic.

Expect to pay: \$750,000 - \$2.5 million.

Expect that to rise: 15 percent.

**1936 Auburn Boattail Speedster supercharged**

These cars are among the most beautifully designed in the world and, in my opinion, the selling prices are true bargains.

Expect to pay: \$275,000 - \$475,000.

Expect that to rise: 20 percent.

**1968 Ford Shelby Mustang GT500 KR convertible**

Like most muscle cars, values are shooting up. The King of the Road Shelby is the top-shelf muscle car. These drop-top icons will go up in value.

Expect to pay: \$125,000 - \$275,000.

Expect that to rise: 20 percent.

**1967-1968 Ford Shelby Mustang GT350 convertible**

These are the Ford enthusiast's dream. The Shelby cars are on a white-hot streak and are much more affordable and, to some, more desirable, than the GT500.

Expect to pay: \$95,000 - \$175,000.

Expect that to rise: 20 percent.

**1936 Cord Sportsman Roadster supercharged**

A rock solid investment in a

true classic automobile designed by world-class creator, Gordon Buehrig. Watch these rare sculptures.

Expect to pay: \$175,000 - \$275,000.

Expect that to rise: 20 percent.

**1964 Ford Galaxie 500 convertible**

These cars were offered with a wide range of powertrains in Ford's Total Performance campaign. The designs are bold and undeniably Ford.

Expect to pay: \$9,000 - \$20,000, depending on options and engine.

Expect that to rise: 19 percent.

**1936 Chevrolet Rumble Seat Roadster**

Vintage Chevrolets are being viewed in a different light. The values for all old Chevys are on a sharp rise. The market will be es-

pecially strong for these seldom-seen roadsters.

Expect to pay: \$22,000 - \$42,000.

Expect that to rise: 15 percent.

**1948 Chrysler Town & Country convertible**

Collectors and market analysts are referring to these as the modern Duesenberg. They were the most well-appointed and beautifully designed cars of the day with relatively low production. Someday they may be the first production car from the 1940s post-war era to slip into the seven figures.

Expect to pay: \$80,000 - \$180,000.

Expect that to rise: 15 percent.

**1954 MG TF Roadster**

For the investor seeking something non-American, I recommend the 1954 MG TF Roadster. The designs are timeless and captured the

spirit of open motoring as it brought them home after World War II. The TF was a last attempt to keep the body style alive and revisions. Great example, a little bit of research to find it worth the effort.

Expect to pay: \$9,500 - \$20,000.

Expect that to rise: 15 percent.

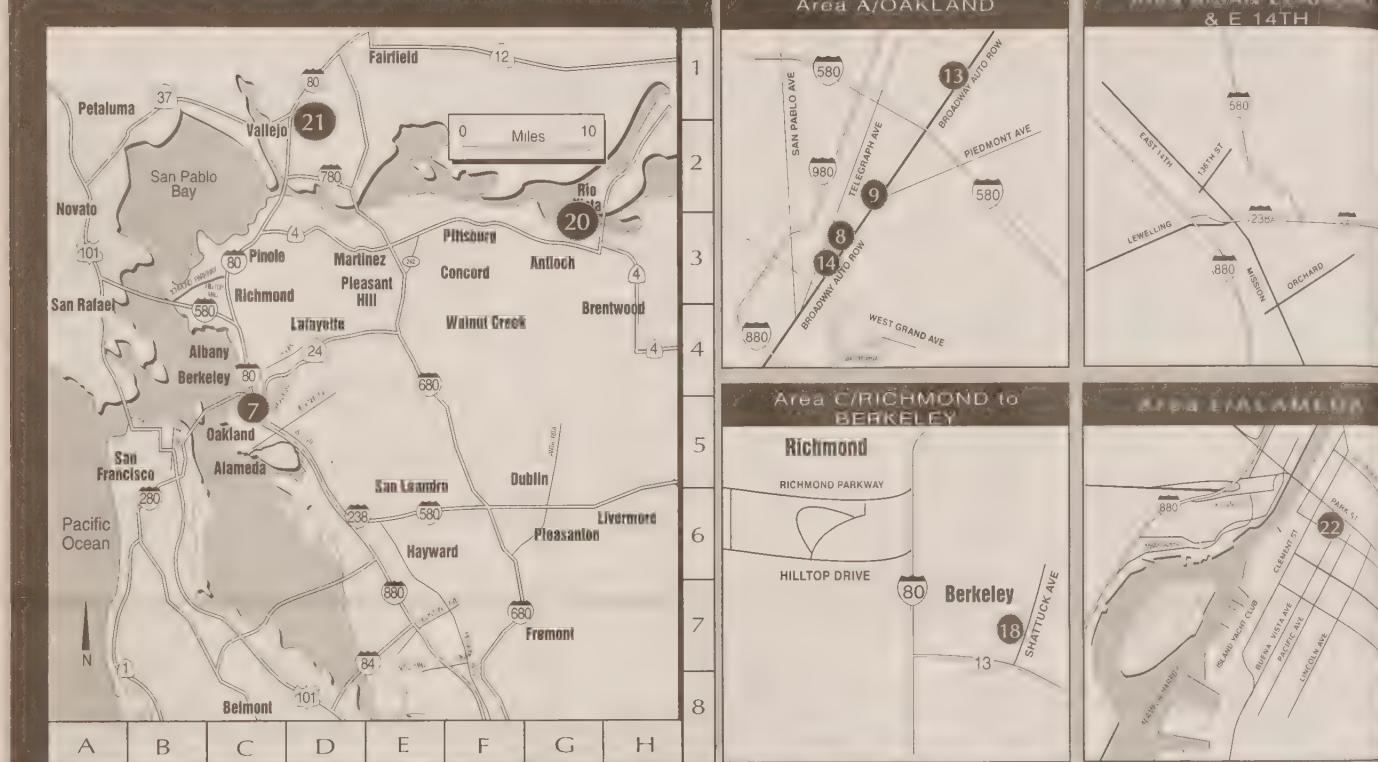
**1959-1960 Chevrolet Impala convertible**

To the beginning car collector, these two years look much the same. They have wonderful subtle differences in styling. They are long, and graceful and could be considered classics.

Expect to pay: \$18,000 - \$35,000.

Expect that to rise: 22 percent.

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Saturn of Oakland  
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**Ron Goode Toyota**  
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**GOOD CHEVROLET**  
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Point Alameda Apartments	Alameda	(888) 757-1789	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/pointalameda">www.apartments.com/pointalameda</a>	971 - 1420	X X X		
Ballena Village Apartments	Alameda	(866) 290-4083	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/ballenvillage">www.apartments.com/ballenvillage</a>	965 - 1570	X X X		
Marine View Apartments	Alameda	(866) 290-4151	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/marineviewapartments">www.apartments.com/marineviewapartments</a>	840 - 1360	X X X		
1901 Shoreline Drive Apts.	Alameda	(866) 290-4787	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/1901shoreline">www.apartments.com/1901shoreline</a>	1250 - 1600	X X X		
Alicante Apartments	Aliso Viejo	(866) 854-0151	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/alicanteralisoviejo">www.apartments.com/alicanteralisoviejo</a>	1225 - 1765	X X X		
Lakeshore Apartments	Antioch	(866) 389-8879	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/dlakeshore">www.apartments.com/dlakeshore</a>	950 - 1390	X		
Crestview Pines	Antioch	(866) 240-9017	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/crestviewpines">www.apartments.com/crestviewpines</a>	925 - 1395	X X X		
Twin Creeks Apartments	Antioch	(866) 309-2333	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/twincreeks">www.apartments.com/twincreeks</a>	905 - 1285	X X X		
Oakwood Village Apts	Antioch	(888) 297-5953	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/oakwoodca">www.apartments.com/oakwoodca</a>	705 - 1235	X X X		
French Village	Belmont	(866) 343-0126	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/frenchvillage">www.apartments.com/frenchvillage</a>	1145 - 1695	X X X		
Sterling Heights Apts	Benicia	(866) 288-4356	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/sterlingheightsapart">www.apartments.com/sterlingheightsapart</a>	1095 - 1355	X X X		
Library Gardens Apts	Berkeley	(866) 703-6432	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/librarygardens">www.apartments.com/librarygardens</a>	1350 - 2700	X		
Renaissance Villas	Berkeley	(888) 665-0074	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/renaissancevillas">www.apartments.com/renaissancevillas</a>	1350 - 1895	X		
Emerald Place Apts	Bermuda Dunes	(866) 471-1026	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/emeraldplace">www.apartments.com/emeraldplace</a>	895 - 1065	X X X		
Arbor Ridge In Brentwood	Brentwood	(800) 494-9554	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/arborridgeinbrentwood">www.apartments.com/arborridgeinbrentwood</a>	1350 - 2520	X X X		
Brentwood Village	Brentwood	(800) 305-5601	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/brentwoodca">www.apartments.com/brentwoodca</a>	795 - 985	X X X		
Town Centre Commons Apts	Brentwood	(866) 287-8837	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/towncentrecocommons">www.apartments.com/towncentrecocommons</a>	885 - 1425	X X X		
North Park	Burlingame	(866) 685-1667	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/northparkburlingame">www.apartments.com/northparkburlingame</a>	950 - 1775	X X X		
La Valencia	Campbell	(866) 290-5099	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/valenciadca">www.apartments.com/valenciadca</a>	1055 - 1405	X X X		
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Barcelona	Carmichael	(866) 245-5111	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/barcelonacarmichael">www.apartments.com/barcelonacarmichael</a>	535 - 795	X		
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Laguna Palms Apartments	Concord	(800) 775-3134	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/lagunapalms">www.apartments.com/lagunapalms</a>	795 - 1050	X X X		
Olivera Villa Apartments	Concord	(866) 791-6088	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/oliveravilla">www.apartments.com/oliveravilla</a>	825 - 1020	X X X		
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El Monte Apartments	Concord	(866) 206-0103	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/elmonte">www.apartments.com/elmonte</a>	995 - 1100	X X X		
Palm Lake Apartments	Concord	(888) 835-1879	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/palmakeconcord">www.apartments.com/palmakeconcord</a>	850 - 1350	X X X		
Diablo View Apartments	Concord	(866) 308-4114	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/diaboliview">www.apartments.com/diaboliview</a>	910 - 1100	X X X		
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Legacy Park Central	Concord	(866) 212-4096	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/legacyparkcentral">www.apartments.com/legacyparkcentral</a>	1277 - 2437	X X X		
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Serramonte Ridge Apts	Daly City	(888) 890-2015	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/serramonteridge">www.apartments.com/serramonteridge</a>	1100 - 1605	X X X		
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Danville Park Apartments	Danville	(866) 228-0129	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/danvillepark">www.apartments.com/danvillepark</a>	1025 - 1500	X X X		
The Trees Apartments	Davis	(866) 506-4741	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/treestrees">www.apartments.com/treestrees</a>	755 - 2500	X X X		
University Village Davis	Davis	(866) 288-4470	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/uvdavis">www.apartments.com/uvdavis</a>	1900 - 2300	X X X		
Tanglewood Apartments	Davis	(866) 471-0838	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/tanglewooddavis">www.apartments.com/tanglewooddavis</a>	1225 - 1875	X X X		
Sharps and Flats	Davis	(866) 290-3460	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/sharpsandflats">www.apartments.com/sharpsandflats</a>	1255 - 1395	X X X		
The Springs	Dublin	(866) 257-4172	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/the-springs">www.apartments.com/the-springs</a>	1105 - 1365	X X X		
Amador Lakes Apartments	Dublin	(888) 807-9703	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/amadorlakes">www.apartments.com/amadorlakes</a>	1155 - 1525	X X X		
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Parkwood Apartments	Dublin	(888) 923-5879	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/parkwood">www.apartments.com/parkwood</a>	1050 - 1750	X X X		
Civic Plaza Apartments	El Cerrito	(866) 231-2976	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/civicplazaapartments">www.apartments.com/civicplazaapartments</a>	1095 - 1460	X X X		
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Birchwood Apartments	Fairfield	(888) 421-9290	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/birchwoodapts">www.apartments.com/birchwoodapts</a>	800 - 950	X X X		
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Suburban Gardens	Fremont	(888) 549-8360	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/suburbangardens">www.apartments.com/suburbangardens</a>	895 - 1195	X X X		
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Pinecrest Apartments	Hayward	(866) 813-4668	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/pinecrestca">www.apartments.com/pinecrestca</a>	995 - 1350	X X X		
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Amador Village	Hayward	(866) 861-6986	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/amadorvillage">www.apartments.com/amadorvillage</a>	1185 - 1655	X X X		
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Plum Tree Apartments	Martinez	(866) 288-1276	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/plumtreeapartments">www.apartments.com/plumtreeapartments</a>	1045 - 1450	X X X		
Regency Plaza Apartments	Martinez	(866) 290-4751	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/regencyplazaca">www.apartments.com/regencyplazaca</a>	925 - 1175	X X X		
Pine Ridge Apartments	Modesto	(866) 247-2946	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/dhpineridge">www.apartments.com/dhpineridge</a>	685 - 725	X X X		
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Hawthorn Village	Napa	(877) 252-0480	X <a href="http://www.apartments.com/hawthornvillage">www.apartments.com/hawthornvillage</a>	1350 - 1955
Bridge Bay	Newark	(866)		



# HOME AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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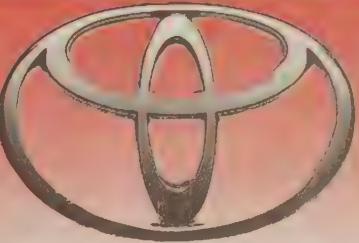
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## lifestyle

## Let there be COLOR: Local design coaches create dramatic home improvements

LINNEA SMITH JESSUP

SPECIAL SECTIONS

you ever put on a shirt in dramatic color and been amazed at the way it transforms you look? A coat of paint can do that to a house, affirms Michele Maggiola, Radicchio Sisters Design, based locally in ?? former restaurateur and design entrepreneur, the energetic Linnea is also an artist. She graduated from UC Berkeley in Fine Art Design, and has taught art classes. She teamed up with her friend Terese Allara, a self-taught landscape artist, to form Radicchio Sisters Design, reflecting Italian heritage. Based in Oakland's Temescal Valley, parents who were best friends, the pair "brainstormed what could be done together that would utilize our talents," and the de-

sign firm was born. In the past three years, they have worked on a variety of projects, from preparing homes for sale to staging to color consulting to just "pulling things together" to achieve a new look.

Utilizing simple tactics inside and out, the pair have transformed homes in a number of ways, always seeking to reflect the home's best features and the interests of the homeowner.

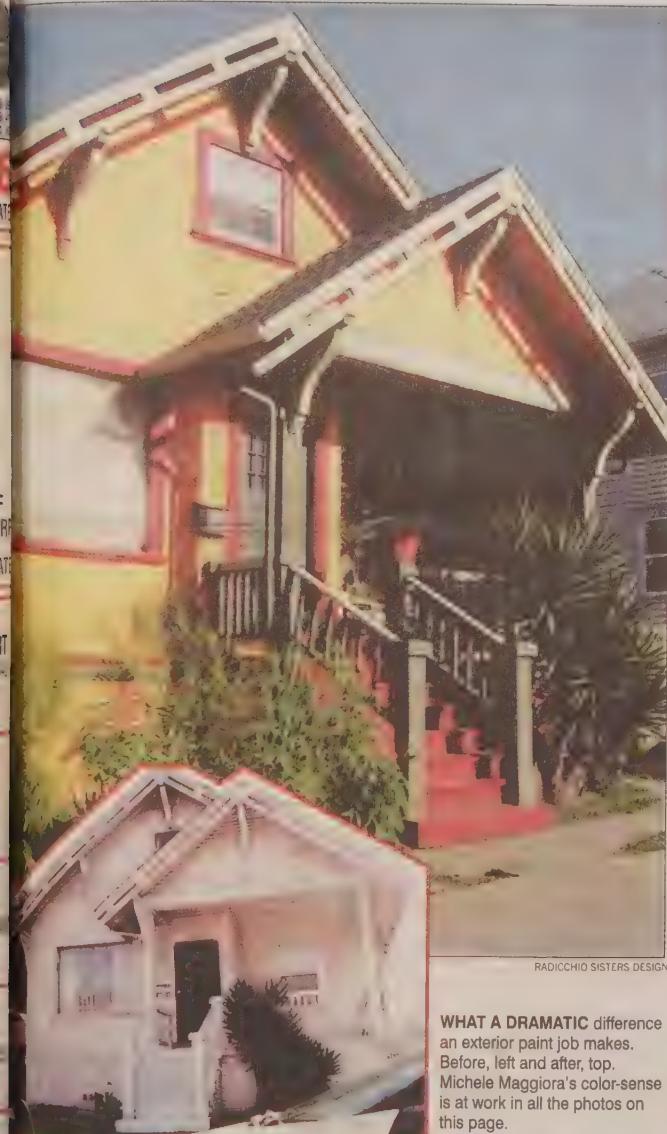
One of the simplest, quickest and often the most dramatic way to give homes a new look is with paint. Says Maggiola, "A new color palette can freshen a space faster and more inexpensively than anything else. Not only does color warm and beautify but color can redefine the environment. It can set the mood, open the space, emphasize or de-emphasize a particular area of the home."

She explains, "Using the eye of a good colorist makes the job easy. A colorist can make sure the colors flow, are harmonious and not fragmented, respect the period of the home and work with the client's taste and style."

While many homeowners have good elements in their homes and furnishings, "They need some advice on how to pull it all together," notes Maggiola. "Often all the client needs is to select a few new pieces, as we show them how to regroup and spotlight existing items in their home."

Among recommended changes:

- Place furniture in a new arrangement.
- Group interesting collectibles together rather than scatter them around a room.
- Give rooms negative space, or empty areas, so that the eye is



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

WHAT A DRAMATIC difference an exterior paint job makes. Before, left and after, top. Michele Maggiola's color-sense is at work in all the photos on this page.

RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

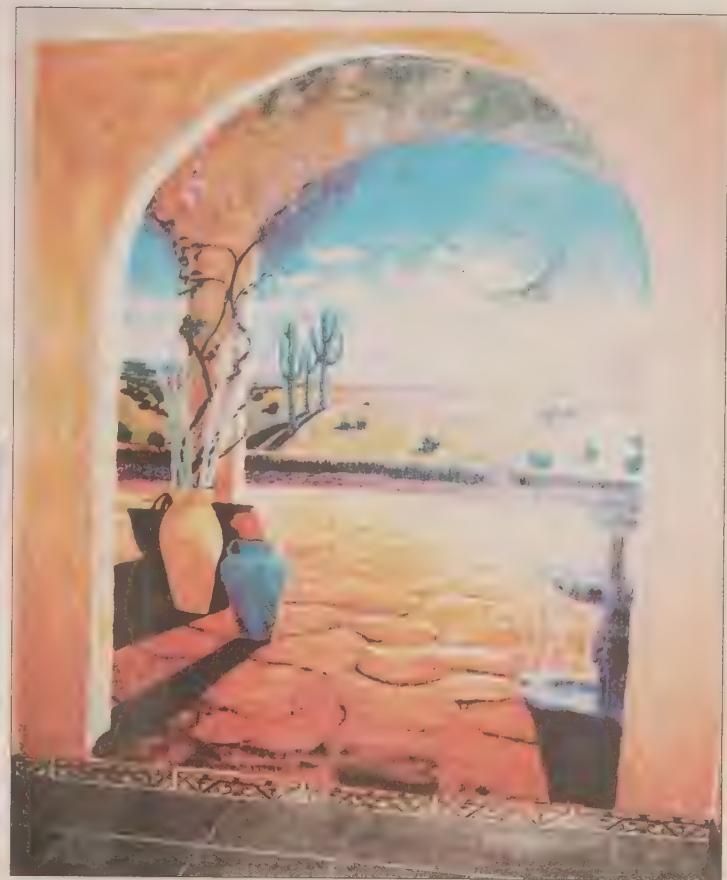


RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

BEFORE, TOP: THE LIBRARY, seen through doorway from living room, inset. After, left: The library was brought to life with red walls and white trim.

RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN



MURALS PROVIDE UNLIMITED possibilities for color and originality to brighten walls. Michele Maggiola painted this mural for a client in Tucson.

not overwhelmed.

- Add living or silk plants.
- Re-frame art.
- Recover existing, quality furniture pieces.

"Too many colors, too many things, every space filled — can actually diminish the impact. We believe that sometimes the simplest changes make the greatest waves."

According to Maggiola, many current clients in the area are working women "who want to create change on a moderate budget. It's easy to feel confused by all the choices. Sometimes our role is simply to help clients stay focused and select items that hold their style together. The results can be rewarding."

Citing the popularity of home improvement shows on television, Maggiola says "attitudes are changing and homeowners are now choosing to directly participate in the transformation of their homes."

Radicchio Sisters Design business cards say "color/design/space" and these are certainly prime elements in the pair's services. They



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN



RADICCHIO SISTERS DESIGN

ANOTHER SIMPLE, QUICK and affordable way to give homes a new look is with painted furniture. Michele Maggiola painted this piece of furniture for a client.

Inside or out, the design coaches help create winning combinations for area homeowners.

Contact Radicchio Sisters Design at 510-444-4472.

# These antioxidant-rich foods have the power to change your life

BY JILL WENDHOLT SILVA  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Blueberries are brain food. If there's one good-for-you food that has cut through the din of conflicting and controversial diet headlines, it's the tiny indigo berry native to North America, which scientists have discovered contains powerful disease-fighters that may improve memory, intelligence and coordination.

But blueberries aren't the only food with bragging rights.

Pomegranates, kiwi fruit and, yes, even dark chocolate are the latest buzz, joining such everyday foods as broccoli, spinach, wild salmon, sweet potatoes, soy, oats, walnuts and tomatoes. Together these nutrient-dense foods containing health-promoting phytonutrients are being dubbed "super foods."

"Super foods are foods that have longevity and contribute to good health," says Steven Pratt, an ophthalmologist at Scripps Memorial Hospital of La Jolla, Calif., and co-author of the best-selling "SuperFoodsRx" and the new "SuperFoods HealthStyle" (William Morrow, 2005, \$24.95).

"It's foods that are available in markets around the world and make up part of a dietary cuisine," Pratt says. "It's also food that has been studied, and the scientific studies have been peer reviewed."

Cruise the aisles of any supermarket in America, and broccoli is ubiquitous for three reasons: It's easy to buy, it's inexpensive and it's easy to cook. It's also one of the most studied, which is how we know it's one of the most nutritious foods on the planet.

Beyond the traditional vitamins and minerals Mother told us about, scientists have discovered broccoli is also a good source of lutein, an antioxidant available in colorful fruits and vegetables that helps prevent macular degeneration, a condition that can cause blindness in older adults.

But not all super foods are as obvious. Take the goji berry. A Tibetan fruit that tastes like a cross between a cranberry and a cherry, the goji berry has long been con-



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD/KANSAS CITY STAR/KRT

**BLUEBERRIES PROVIDE** more antioxidants than any other fruit or vegetable.

sidered a medicinal food in Asia. But scientists know little about how it works in the body to promote health.

Nutrition experts agree we've only begun to scratch the surface in our efforts to discover how foods prevent disease in the body. Pratt's first book featured 14 super foods, a term he believes he coined but could not trademark. His second book adds 10 more to an ever-growing list, and there are "side-kicks" galore — related foods that provide similar health benefits.

When Wild Oats Markets began a labeling program last year to educate consumers on the benefits of eating more super foods, the company went beyond naming individual foods to include entire categories of health-promoting foods, including seeds, sea veggies and "green foods" or supplements such as wheat grass, spirulina, chlorella and barley grass.

"The super foods list doesn't keep changing; it keeps getting added to," says Tricia DiPersio, corporate dietitian for the natural foods chain.

One of the most surprising super foods to hit the headlines is dark chocolate. It is loaded with health-promoting polyphenols — antioxidants that may help lower blood pressure and promote vascular health. Cocoa has more polyphenols than red wine or green tea. But to qualify, the chocolate must contain at least 70 percent cocoa solids.

This month Hershey's is introducing an extra dark chocolate that touts antioxidant power equal to three cups of tea, two glasses of red wine or 1 1/3 cups of blueberries. Impressive stats, but the company Web site ([www.hersheys.com](http://www.hersheys.com)) points out that scientists are still investigating exactly how antioxidant scores relate to their activity in the body.

"Marketing folks are sometimes way ahead of the science," Pratt warns.

Still, with the \$640 million premium juice market projected to grow to \$1.4 billion by 2008, it's no surprise that Naked Juice is already marketing grab-and-go bottles of juice made from the obscure Brazilian berry known as

acai (pronounced ah-sigh-ee), which is touted to have 10 times the antioxidants of red grapes.

But typically Brazilians pour an avalanche of sugar on acai to tame its tartness. Naked Juice chose to combine the tart berry juice with sweeter apple, banana and white grape juices. "Sometimes with the higher antioxidant fruits, you need to find the right mix of fruits," says Rachel Kenney, education manager for the California-based premium juice company.

In "12 Best Foods Cookbook" (Rodale, 2004, \$21.95), Dana Jacobi highlights foods that are not only loaded with phytonutrients but also have what she calls a certain "voluptuousness." After all, if a food doesn't taste good, most of us won't eat it no matter how good it is for us.

"I tried to look at foods beyond what its headline fame might be," says Jacobi, a New York-based food writer and chef who developed the recipes for her book. "What these 12 foods do — besides providing phytonutrients — is they cover the whole range of what a balanced diet is and include variety."

To that end, she made a choice to leave apples out of the cookbook, even though they taste great, are easy to buy and rate high on the USDA's list of 20 top antioxidant foods. And she chose chocolate over red wine and walnuts instead of almonds, even though red wine and almonds are delicious and possess plenty of proven health benefits.

"What I hope (readers) take from the book is the things that are good for them and have a good time with them. Not to have them feel like this is a duty or a sacrifice," Jacobi says.

Food, after all, should taste better than a spoonful of medicine.

## 12 super foods

When it comes to super foods, there's a lot of compulsive list-making going on. During the holidays, press releases touted the antioxidant powers of turkey (selenium), pumpkin (beta-carotene) and Brussels sprouts (glucosinolates). Some lists focus on a half



TAMMY LJUNGBLAD/KANSAS CITY STAR/KRT

## TOMATOES CONTAIN

lycopene plus a range of beneficial phytochemicals that protect against heart attack, cancers and age-related macular degeneration.

dozen foods; USDA scientists have focused on 100 foods and spotlighted 20. But you can forget the numbers game and feel good about adding any of these to your grocery cart.

## 1. Beans

Why? High in folate, fiber and antioxidants, beans can help lower cholesterol and LDL levels, scavenge free radicals, moderate insulin levels and reduce cancer risk.

How much? Eat at least one 1/2 cup serving of sweet potatoes or other beta-carotene-rich produce (carrots, butternut squash, pumpkin and orange bell peppers) a day.

## 2. Sweet potatoes

Why? Loaded with beta-carotene, sweet potatoes boost the immune system. They also reduce cholesterol build up in the arteries and help fight age-related macular degeneration and a variety of cancers.

How much? Eat at least one 1/2 cup serving of sweet potatoes or other beta-carotene-rich produce (carrots, butternut squash, pumpkin and orange bell peppers) a day.

## 3. Spinach

Why? Spinach contains more than a Popeye-sized dose of iron.

When it comes to antioxidants, it's packed with carotenoids such as beta-carotene and lutein for eye health.

How much? Eat one serving of soy foods a day. The size depends on the form of soy food. Try edamame for snacking out of hand.

## 6. Spinach

Why? Spinach contains more

than a Popeye-sized dose of iron. When it comes to antioxidants, it's packed with carotenoids such as beta-carotene and lutein for eye health.

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## 6. Spinach

Why? Spinach contains more than a Popeye-sized dose of iron. When it comes to antioxidants, it's packed with carotenoids such as beta-carotene and lutein for eye health.

How much? Eat at least one cup cooked spinach or dark leafy green vegetable a day.

## 7. Sweet potatoes

Why? Loaded with beta-carotene, sweet potatoes boost the immune system. They also reduce cholesterol build up in the arteries and help fight age-related macular degeneration and a variety of cancers.

How much? Eat at least one 1/2 cup serving of sweet potatoes or other beta-carotene-rich produce (carrots, butternut squash, pumpkin and orange bell peppers) a day.

## 8. Tomatoes

Why? Tomatoes contain lycopene plus a range of beneficial phytochemicals that protect against heart attack, cancers and age-related macular degeneration.

How much? Eat two 1/2 cup servings a day of cooked or canned beans.

## 2. Blueberries

Why?

What?

How?

When?

Where?

Why?

What?

How?



# Create something green to envy

BY JACKIE BURRELL  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Wisteria Lane's exquisite hydrangeas, perfectly groomed lawns and verdant shrubs hide a multitude of secrets from snoopy neighbors. But it only took your neighbors a month to catch on to your terrible secret: You can't even keep pansies alive.

Everyone loves the idea of a lush spring garden. The horticulturally gifted actually have them. The rest of us get as far as the entrance to the nursery. We're waylaid by trowels, distracted by the sharp scent of bagged mulch, and overwhelmed by the endless rows of plants in plastic pots.

Soil amendments? Nitrogen? Phosphates?

All you wanted were some pretty flowers. No one said anything about chemistry. And when you're asked how many yards of mulch you need, you don't even know what to say. You only have the one back yard and what is this "mulch" of which they speak?

Take heart, says Orchard Nursery's Bonnie Brusseau. Novice gardeners don't need to know how or why things work. They just need to know two things: the importance of this mulch stuff, and the difference between annuals and perennials.

So, you too can have a beautiful spring garden, even if you've

killed every pansy or marigold you've ever touched.

"Um, you planted annuals," Brusseau says patiently. "They have a short life span."

OK, so the difference between a perennial and an annual is that perennials don't die at the end of the season. They will wilt and turn brown, but they'll bloom again next year, perennially, as it were. And you're not a pansy killer. Annuals are one-shot bloomers. Once the flowers are gone, no amount of fertilizer or tears will bring them back. Get over it.

But what about the lush flower beds at the mall, you ask, where pansies bloom forever? Or Bree Van



RANDALL BARNES DOES SOME UPKEEP to the annuals section at The Orchard Nursery

De Kamp's hydrangeas? Her perennials never turn brown.

"We're really spoiled," Brusseau says. "We kind of expect our lawns to be green year-round, our beds to be colorful."

You can't have cinematic hydrangeas, says Brusseau. But with a no-brainer "ooooh, that's pretty" approach — and advice from local nursery staffers — even neophytes can create a perennially blooming perennial garden in about a year. Other than the initial mulch-fest, the time investment is minimal. You won't need a degree in botany. You won't even need a shopping list.

You will, however, need mulch. As soon as there's a break in the weather, dash outside and start spreading a 2-inch-thick layer of organic matter — shredded bark, cocoa bean hulls, small-sized redwood bark, or anything labeled "mulch" at the nursery — over your flower beds-to-be.

Then go back inside. Watch "Lost," write the Great American Novel, whatever. Let the wonders of rain, sun and decomposition do their magic. In two weeks, the soil in your flowerbed will be dramatically easier to work with. The nursery will be buzzing with thoughts of spring. And you will be going shopping for just one thing: a perennial that's currently in bloom at your local nursery.

Talk with nursery staffers about

what might thrive, given your garden's micro-climate and exposure to sun. Then pick a blooming perennial that you like — "Ooooh, that's pretty" — and buy five of them.

Back in your garden, dig the well-  
percolated mulch into the soil beneath, mixing and turning to blend. Then plant your pretty perennials — spacing them randomly so it doesn't look like Pythagoras helped you.

Tuck in a few annuals if your

new floral border looks add another inch of mulch to the bed, too. organic matter around plants. The mulch insulates the soil and keeps moist. And as the months roll down, the soil gets better. Besides, says Brusseau, good. It looks finished.

Now, wash yourself a glass of

You're done for now.

In a month or so, go to the nursery and see what you like.

Pick a pretty one, plant it and six weeks later, do

"Instead of poring over

## Not just for the dryer anymore

NAPS

On average, people put more than five loads of laundry in the dryer each week. Many of those loads contain dryer sheets, used to control static and infuse the clothes with a light scent. Dryer sheets, however, are increasingly making their way out of the laundry room and into other parts of the home.

For example, home researchers at Procter & Gamble recommend using dryer sheets:

■ In the linen closet to help keep linens smelling fresh day after day;

■ In shoes to help give odors the boot;

■ In the gym bag to give odors a workout;

- In dresser drawers for fresher sweaters, lingerie and socks;
- Behind curtains to help freshen the whole kitchen;
- In the diaper bin to give it a clean, fresh scent.

These are all great, useful ideas, and by logging on to [www.BounceEverywhere.com](http://www.BounceEverywhere.com), you can find additional dryer sheet uses with some surprising benefits. In addition to the tips recommended by P&G, the following is just a small collection of ideas suggested by consumers like you across the country:

■ Got a white streak on your clothes from your deodorant? Just take a used Bounce sheet and wipe it lightly across to remove the stain.

■ Put a dryer sheet in the air conditioning vent — it will make the whole house smell fresh and clean.

■ Use Bounce in the shower to clean soap scum. Just wet the sheet, rub and rinse. It breaks up the soap scum on glass doors and leaves them sparkling.

■ When putting clothes away for the season, put a fabric sheet or two in the storage bag/container for freshness next season.

■ Clean away stubborn food. Put a Bounce sheet in the pan and let it soak overnight.

For more information, log onto [www.BounceEverywhere.com](http://www.BounceEverywhere.com).

Please recycle

## Earth Day electronic waste collection event

UNIVERSAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Universal Waste Management, a state-approved collector for electronic waste, has scheduled consumer drop-off dates as part of Earth Day observances. The collections are in Concord and Orinda.

■ "UnWaste Your World on Earth Day" at the Chronicle Pavilion.

Presented by Bill Graham Presents, The Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club, and Universal Waste Management, Inc. and benefiting the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club.

Drop off items at 2000 Kirker Pass Road, Concord, Friday, April 21, 1 - 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

■ Or, go to the Orinda BART Station on Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m.

- 3 p.m. This event is presented by The City of Orinda and Universal Waste Management, Inc. at Orinda BART, 11 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Use these days and sites to turn in the following electronic items:

Computers, computer monitors, computer components, printers, fax machines, copiers, televisions, VCR and DVD players, toner cartridges, telephone equipment, cellular phones and MP3 players.

Universal Waste Management does not accept household appli-

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In advance of visiting these collection sites by going online to [waste.com](http://waste.com) and click Verification form. Bring printed form with you.

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# Taking your deck to the next level

ARA

Turning the backyard into an outdoor living retreat is one of the latest trends among American homeowners. It makes sense; with visions, computers and phones nearly every room of the house, a backyard deck is the final safe haven from life's pressures. Escaping to a quiet corner of the yard is a necessary respite, but don't be fooled. Creating a relaxing setting takes more than a laid back approach. There work to be done before it will feel a restful place, and one of the important tasks is to do some thoughtful planning. Creative thinking will pay off in a big way when deck turns into a favorite spot for your whole family.

Today's decks are a far cry from rectangular slabs of yesterday, they serve different purposes than sunbathing and grilling, and they are being designed and installed accordingly. In developing your concept for an outdoor retreat, be sure to consider the following:

Layout

It all begins with knowing the activities you'd like to include on the deck. How much area is needed to comfortably accommodate every activity? The average size deck is 300 to 400 square feet, and the more activities you'd like to enjoy the outdoor experience, the larger deck required. Having those activities in mind will help you divide the deck into different zones — one for the grill, one for a hot tub, one for a sitting area, and so on. You may want to consider giving each zone its own level. Levels is a great way to define areas — a few steps up or down gives the area you've entered a new space. Another way to distinguish

deck areas is to change the deck board direction; an angle change or unique board pattern provides the subtle indication that you're in a separate deck area.

"Many of my customers are requesting distinctive board designs lately. One of the most requested is an octagon inlay underneath a cedar table," according to Tim Meisch, owner of Custom Cedar Decks in Mill Creek, WA. "It's so unique, people often mistake it for a decorative rug."

Traffic flow affects the usability of your deck. It's all about remembering the practical realities. For example, dining areas require extra space. Grilling areas should be close to the kitchen so you're not shuttling things back and forth more than necessary. If you want to include a conversation area with a warm fireplace for people to gather, make sure you will have enough room to move around safely and comfortably.

Weather conditions can also impact layout. If you need protection from the beating rays of the sun or protection from the wind, a sheltered spot under a canopy of trees might be sensible. Or, consider building an arbor or roof over the dining area to create more of an indoor feeling and a transition to the outdoor setting.

When choosing a grilling area location, think about the prevailing winds and pick a spot where the smoke blows away from the guests and cook. And try not to isolate the grill, as this is a common gathering area for pre-meal conversations.

#### Decking materials

One great way to make a seamless transition between the indoors and outdoors is by incorporating a decking material that gives the impression it is an extension of the

room inside. This can be done through the right selection of color and material.

While a number of imitation products have hit the market in recent years, all-natural western red cedar remains one of the most widely favored and versatile decking materials. Many people choose western red cedar due to its aesthetic appeal

and physical properties. For centuries, cedar has been known for its exceptional beauty, versatility and longevity. Cedar brings an exceptional all-natural look, aroma and character to outdoor spaces.

"Natural qualities of western red cedar make it an excellent choice for a wide range of building projects both inside the home and outside the home," says Peter Lang, general manager of the Western Red Cedar Lumber Association. "It is one of the most environmentally-friendly building materials you can

use. It's naturally durable without the need for chemical treatment, dimensionally stable, resilient, and lightweight — unlike some plastic or imitation wood products."

#### Decorating

Placing some furniture just outside the main deck entrance provides a smooth segue between spaces and invites guests to move freely between the indoors and outdoors. Choose cushioned fabrics to visually tie the interior and exterior together for a cohesive look.

Built-in benches add both style and function to your deck. They are a great way to capitalize on longer stretches of decking with unobstructed views. Adding western red cedar planter boxes at select locations can create focal points. You can also add a birdbath to bring another dimension of enjoyment.

With the right planning, you'll be able to create an outdoor paradise that will become a welcome respite from the hectic pace of everyday life. For more information visit [www.realcedar.org](http://www.realcedar.org).



CREATIVE THINKING WILL pay off in a big way when your deck turns into a favorite spot for your whole family.

ARA CONTENT

# Choosing trim for your home's exterior

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Whether you are building a new home or remodeling an existing one, you want your house to look its best inside and out. We're here to help you do that year after year with as little maintenance as possible, right?

One simple way to set your home apart from your neighbors is to install or replace the exterior trim that frames your windows and doors, caps roof lines and serves as column wraps, or

porch trim, corner arches and a variety of other decorative applications. It is an excellent finishing touch and a convenient and inexpensive way to accent the beauty of your home's style.

When choosing an exterior trim, material selection is perhaps the most important factor. Available materials include wood, engineered wood composites, hardboard and PVC. Wood products such as redwood, cedar and primed spruce, can look great

when first installed, but may split and swell over time. Many homeowners also complain about paint peeling, chipping and discoloration of wood trim, as well as warping and decay.

Hardboard trim products are made of two pieces of hardboard siding that are glued together. Over time and with extended outdoor exposure, these products may separate and lose their durability, requiring additional maintenance and repair. PVC products

may expand or contract with temperature variations, are not environmentally friendly, and cost two to three times that of engineered wood composite trim boards.

Engineered wood composite trim is a functional, economical and easy-to-use option. Some composite trim is treated to withstand harsh weather conditions and to provide enhanced performance.

For instance, MiraTEC Treated Exterior Composite Trim from CraftMaster Manufacturing, Inc.

(CMI) is treated with zinc borate and made with phenolic resins to offer moisture, rot and termite resistance. Hardboard trim products do not offer such protection. Additionally, MiraTEC Trim is coated with a mildew-resistant primer on four sides, making it easy to paint, thus eliminating the need to repaint as often as standard wood trim products.

Available in 16-foot boards, as well as a variety of thicknesses and widths, CMI's MiraTEC Trim delivers enhanced durability and performance in non-structural trim applications. It is reversible to meet any home's style. The smooth side offers a contempo-

rary look, while the side with a warm-cedar texture is perfect for traditional homes.

MiraTEC Trim is backed by a 25-year warranty that covers rot, hail damage, warp, delamination and splitting.

For more information or a free brochure call 800-255-0785 or visit [www.miratectrtrim.com](http://www.miratectrtrim.com).

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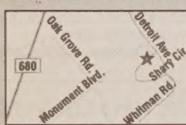


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